

Maintenance of Concrete Pumps

Outline of Incident:

An incident has occurred on one of our projects where the driver/operator of a mobile concrete pump received significant injuries to both lower legs whilst attempting to clean out the concrete hopper at the rear of the pump.



As part of the process of cleaning the pump the driver/operator climbed into the hopper and proceeded to use a lump hammer to loosen hardened concrete from inside the hopper itself. In doing so this caused the turning screw in the bottom of the hopper to re-engage this pulled the operator's foot into the mechanism.

The climbing into the hopper is not often a common practice seen on site and one which may be performed more often than not, back at the operator's yard due to additional risks involved such as working at height.

However, the CPA guidance states that the following must be actioned prior to anyone accessing the hopper of the pump;

12.4 Isolating the Pump

Before working in the receiving hopper, the concrete pump operator should always switch off the engine and remove the keys, vent the hydraulic pressure and ensure that the agitator control lever is in the neutral position.

Actions for Business Consideration:

The operation of this specialist equipment is principally managed by third parties and sites **MUST** satisfy themselves that the following items have been considered when they utilise this type of equipment:

- A suitable risk assessment and method statement that covers the operation of the pump. In particular, the cleaning down of the pump and the safe isolation procedures that must be in place prior to any access being made into the hopper.
- The selection and appointment of competent suppliers who can provide evidence that they adhere to the Construction Plant Association's industry guidance "Safe Use of Concrete Pumps".
- Trained and competent driver/operators who hold a suitable operator's license such as the CPCS card.
- Certification is in place and up to date i.e. a 12 month through examination certificate as well as operator daily/weekly pre use checks.
- The GallifordTry Concrete Pump Pre-Use Checklist (HS&E FRM P01 04) has been completed.

Dave Housley
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Communication Required: (double click on box to tick action to be taken)

Toolbox Talk Notice Board Supply Chain Review of Site Activities Information only

Actions Completed by: Date