CrewSigned

Concrete Safety Toolbox Talk

5-minute read-aloud · Last reviewed November 24, 2026

Concrete work looks simple, but it hurts a lot of people. Wet concrete burns skin, rebar impales people who fall on it, forms and shoring collapse, pump hoses whip, and cutting cured concrete throws silica dust into the air. Today we will go through each one.

Wet concrete is strongly caustic, like a chemical. When it soaks through your clothes or gets into your boots, it can cause serious burns that you may not feel until hours later. Wear waterproof gloves and tall rubber boots, and keep your pants tucked inside the boots and taped if needed, so concrete cannot pour in from the top. Wear long sleeves and safety glasses or goggles. Use waterproof knee pads when finishing. If concrete gets on your skin or soaks your clothes, wash it off with clean water right away and change out of the wet clothes. If it gets in your eyes, rinse for at least fifteen minutes and get medical help.

Rebar sticking up can impale someone who trips or falls on it. Any rebar that sticks out has to be guarded. Use proper rebar caps or covers, or bend the bars over. The little mushroom caps are for scrapes, not for falls from above.

Forms and shoring hold a lot of weight while concrete is wet. Only build them the way the design says, and do not take them down until the concrete is strong enough. Do not load a slab with material before it is ready. Watch for bulging or cracking forms during the pour, and if you see it, stop the pour and get clear.

During a pour, stay out from under concrete buckets while they are raised or lowered, and never ride a bucket. Pump hoses can whip when there is a blockage or when air gets in, so stay clear of the end of the hose and keep it controlled. Keep away from the boom and watch for overhead power lines. If you are spraying concrete or using a pneumatic hose, you need head and face protection.

Cutting, grinding and drilling cured concrete creates silica dust that damages lungs. Use water or a vacuum shroud on the tool, and wear a respirator when the job calls for it.

Concrete is heavy. Use mechanical help to move it, rotate tasks, and take breaks. It is hard work on the body.

Discussion questions

1. What PPE do you need to work in wet concrete today, and is it waterproof?
2. Which rebar on this site is sticking up uncapped right now?
3. Where will people stand during the pour so they are clear of the bucket, boom and hose?

OSHA standard

29 CFR 1926.701, Concrete and masonry general requirements
https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.701

SOURCES

NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards: Portland cement: https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npg/npgd0510.html
OSHA Crystalline Silica: https://www.osha.gov/silica-crystalline

This talk does not replace training that an OSHA standard requires. Scripts are based on OSHA and NIOSH publications and rewritten in plain language.

Safety Meeting Sign-In Sheet

TOPIC

Concrete Safety Toolbox Talk

COMPANY

JOB / SITE

DATE

TIME

PRESENTER

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