

Concrete is one of the most widely used construction materials in the world and safety hazards exist in all phases of concrete production and construction work with concrete, including:

- skin, eye and respiratory irritation due to cement dust exposure
  - inadequate equipment guarding or lockout/tagout systems on machinery
  - overexertion and back injuries
  - slips, trips and falls
  - chemical burns from wet concrete
- Because concrete work is labor intensive, it's important that workers practice good lifting, carrying and working practices throughout the day to prevent back injuries, sprains and strains.
- Wearing proper PPE, including gloves, boots and eye protection, is critical when working with materials that contain cement, like wet concrete.



**OSHA Standard 1926.701(f)** *No employee shall be permitted to apply a cement, sand, and water mixture through a pneumatic hose unless the employee is wearing protective head and face equipment.*

- Reduce silica exposure by using wet methods and local exhaust ventilation during chipping, drilling, and sawing of concrete materials.
- Do not walk or work under overhead loads, including concrete buckets while they are being elevated or lowered into position. Never ride on the concrete buckets.
- Identify and fix slip, trip and fall hazards throughout the concrete construction project including slippery surfaces, damaged ladders and walkways, and loose hand-holds on heavy equipment.
- For impalement protection, protruding rebar must be capped or guarded.
- When kneeling on fresh concrete, use a dry board or waterproof kneepads to protect knees from the wetness that can soak through fabric.

## Discussion

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***What are the PPE requirements and recommendations when working with concrete?***

***What additional concrete safety tips do you think are important?***