

# Workplace Hazards in Concreting

This fact sheet is for students undertaking work experience programs, and for their host employers. It can be used as a tool to assist with task planning, and to develop appropriate induction, training and supervision to minimise any risk to students while they are 'at work'.

**Students must be given instruction, and must be supervised at all times. Consideration must always be given to hazards when allocating tasks. If any risk exists, students must NOT undertake the activity.**

Hazard	Possible Harmful Effects	Possible Employer Action to Prevent Injury / Illness	Preventative Action Students Can Take
Powered tools and non-powered tools – e.g. jackhammer, boltcutters, mixer and/or vibrator, hand-held cutting saw	Contact with electricity Amputation or laceration Eye or face injury Musculoskeletal disorders caused by equipment vibration	<b>Students must NOT operate powered tools</b>  ◆ Provide instruction in safe use of hand tools	<b>Students must NOT operate powered tools</b>  ◆ Use hand tools carefully, according to your instructions
Working at heights	Falls from heights, potential for fatality or serious injury	<b>Students must NOT work at heights where there is any risk of a fall</b>	<b>Students must NOT work at heights where there is any risk of a fall</b>
Mobile plant including mobile platforms, trucks, concrete mixers	Falls from heights, potential for fatality or serious injury  Being struck by mobile plant	<b>Students must NOT operate mobile plant</b>	<b>Students must NOT operate mobile plant</b>
Unlevelled terrain	Falls Cuts	◆ Place appropriate safety signs ◆ Require appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) including safety footwear	◆ Observe safety signs ◆ Wear PPE including safety footwear
Cement products, hazardous substances	Dermatitis  Fresh concrete has caustic effect due to its alkaline nature  Burns, including abrasive effects of sand	◆ Assess the work area before commencing work ◆ Provide Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) and risk assessments for hazardous substances ◆ Provide appropriate PPE ◆ Provide emergency eye wash facility	◆ Read MSDS and follow safe working instructions ◆ Use PPE provided to protect you against hazardous substances
Manual handling (bending, reaching, stretching, pulling, lifting, repetitive motions, awkward posture)	Musculoskeletal disorders including sprains and strains	◆ Document safe work procedures ◆ Provide mechanical aids ◆ Provide training in safe manual handling techniques ◆ Encourage team lifts where appropriate	◆ Use mechanical aids ◆ Seek help when you think a team lift is required ◆ Exercise: warm up/stretch before starting work, and cool down/stretch at end of the shift or working day
Noise	Long-term exposure to excessive noise could lead to hearing loss	◆ Maintain powered tools to reduce noise ◆ Limit noise exposure ◆ Provide appropriate PPE	◆ Wear PPE (hearing protection) provided
Exposed sharp reinforcing steel/bars, electrical cable conduits, gas pipes	Cuts and laceration Electrocution Explosion or fire if gas pipes are breached	◆ Document safe work procedures ◆ Set up appropriate signs ◆ Cap reinforcing bars ◆ Provide appropriate PPE	◆ Follow safe work procedures after being instructed ◆ Observe safety signs ◆ Wear appropriate PPE
Hot weather conditions	Heat rashes, heat cramps, heat stress, dehydration, sunburn	◆ Provide regular rest breaks ◆ Re-schedule work if extreme weather conditions present risk	◆ Dress appropriately for the conditions ◆ Take scheduled breaks
Sexual harassment, work place bullying	Emotional stress, fear and anxiety, physical illness	◆ Establish work place policy ◆ Provide staff briefings or training	◆ Report any concerns immediately

