FORMWORK
(CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES)

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

SAFEWORK NSW AND ITS PARTNERS ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP YOUR INDUSTRY.

Here are some of the reasons why:

- NSW Concrete Construction Services industry employs more than 6,000 people. There are currently 1,336 workers compensation policy holders.
- Falls are the number one cause of fatality or permanent disability in the Construction Industry.
- Falls most commonly occur because of unprotected edges or inadequately covered and secured penetrations.
- Formworkers and other structural trades are the most common occupations of injured workers in the Construction Industry.
- Workers compensation claims within Concrete Construction Services are six times more likely to result in permanent disability than the industry average.
- Workers are twice as likely to have a major claim and twice as likely to have more than six months off work due to an injury.

Developing an action plan to improve health, safety and recovery at work outcomes has been a team effort. Partners on this project include:

*Data years: 2013/14, 2014/15*
WHAT WE WILL DO

We want to help you make your formwork construction work site safer and are working with the Concrete Construction Services Industry to make this happen.

We will help you by providing:

- A free advisory site visit.
- Videos to help you understand how to prevent falls from heights.
- A Formwork (Concrete Construction Services) web page.
- Guidance on good practices when working with Formwork.
- Information at industry events, for example sample SWMS.
- Small Business Safety Rebates for eligible businesses.

WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW

**KEY ISSUES**

**FALLS FROM HEIGHTS FROM FORMWORK DECKS AND PENETRATIONS**

- Work from below, using temporary work platforms or intermediate working decks if appropriate. Don’t stand on joists.
- Minimise the number of leading edges and install handrails/edge protection. Scaffolds, formwork screens and catch platforms may also be effective.
- Incorporate handrails onto table forms and other pre-assembled systems before they are lifted into position.
- Ensure penetrations/openings are covered. Covers should be securely fixed and clearly sign posted.
- Construct handrails, platforms, decks and covers with sufficient strength to comply with relevant Australian standards.
- Ensure SWMS are task and site specific.

**SECONDARY ISSUES**

**FALLS ON THE SAME LEVEL (SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS)**

- Keep decks and work areas tidy, and ensure walkways, stairs and access points are clear at all times.
- Stack materials as they are stripped.
- Keep leads off the ground using appropriate hooks or stands.

**BEING HIT BY FALLING OBJECTS**

- Set up exclusion zones under decks being constructed or stripped. Install warning signs indicating overhead works.
- Install kickers and toeboards.
- Develop a controlled method for stripping formwork – do not ‘drop-strip’.

**LIFTING AND HANDLING OF HEAVY MATERIALS**

- Reduce loads by substituting lighter weight components where possible.
- Sequence work so that components can be removed separately rather than as assemblies.
- Use mechanical lifting equipment such as cranes, forklifts, pallet jacks and stackers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Call 13 10 50
Visit safework.nsw.gov.au

Disclaimer

This publication may contain information about the regulation and enforcement of work health and safety in NSW. It may include some of your obligations under some of the legislation that SafeWork NSW administers. To ensure you comply with your legal obligations you must refer to the appropriate legislation.

Information on the latest laws can be checked by visiting the NSW legislation website legislation.nsw.gov.au.

This publication does not represent a comprehensive statement of the law as it applies to particular problems or to individuals or as a substitute for legal advice. You should seek independent legal advice if you need assistance on the application of the law to your situation.

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