**Concrete Mixer Toolbox Talk**

Power mixers are a necessity for many jobs to ensure a uniform mixture of material, speed, and reduction in labor costs. However, there are many hazards associated with the use of power mixers. Correctly applying safe work practices while using a power mixer helps to keep the job injury free. Follow these guidelines for safe power mixer operations.

* Supervisors must ensure that assigned personnel are properly trained on the equipment before allowing the equipment to be operated.
* Operators should perform a pre-operational check of the machine at the start of each shift. Lubricate the mixer as needed before starting.
  + Make sure all guards are in place and report all needed repairs immediately. Do not use unsafe equipment.
* Never attempt to repair or adjust a mixer when operating, except the carburetor on a gasoline mixer. Do not fuel gas-powered machines while the engine is hot or running. Do not operate a mixer that constantly leaks fuel.
* Set up the mixer on a firm, solid base before starting. Ensure that the area of operation is level and clear of trip hazards. Before operating, level the machine with jacks and blocks, and ensure the wheels are securely blocked.
* Get help to move the mixer from one location to another.
  + When moving or handling mixers, lift them correctly with legs and use as many people as necessary to do the job safely.
* Always add a small amount of water to the mixing drum before putting it in the dry mix. This prevents the mixer from binding.
* Do not overload the mixer.
  + Only put in the amount of mix recommended by the manufacturer for the specific size mixer being used.
* On electric mixers, inspect for any damage to electrical components and connections. Make sure the extension cord is appropriately rated and in good condition.
  + Ensure the connection to the extension cord is off the ground and clear of any water source.
* Always wear eye protection when operating mixers. If mortar or cement splashes in the eyes, do not rub them. Sand may scratch the eye, causing further injury.
  + Wash your eye immediately with clean water. If rinsing doesn’t remove all material, see a doctor.
  + Wear gloves, dust masks, and other appropriate personal protective equipment when operating mixers.
* Some chemical additives to cement products may be skin irritants. Wash hands and arms often when using them.
* Use care when shoveling material into mixers. Back injuries are common from repetitive bending and twisting. Use back support if necessary.
* Always pay attention to the task at hand when operating a mixer. Talking to someone or looking in another direction when operating the mixer can result in an accident.
* Never put the shovel or other objects inside the mouth or drum of the mixer when it is running. It may catch in the mixing paddle, damage the mixer, or injure the operator. Always place the safety grate in the mortar mixer when adding material, and never allow any part of the body in the mixer while running.
* Remove all loose material from the mixer and frame before trailering the mixer to prevent hazards to other drivers.
* Wear hearing and eye protection if cleaning a mixer with a pneumatic chipping hammer becomes necessary. Respiratory protection may also be required, as silica dust is a health hazard.