




SAFETY INCENTIVE PROGRAM
950 Keynote Circle, Suite 10
Cleveland, Ohio 44131-1802
Telephone (216) 398-9860

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SIP TIP: CONCRETE TRUCKS AND POWER LINES

Despite booms constantly in the air, most people, including pump operators, are naturally pre-occupied with ground level work activity. They, and everyone on the job, can forget the power lines are there. This is especially true for slab pours that begin in early morning hours or occur at night.

Despite their constant presence in our lives, we continue to pay little attention to power lines except when we read about an accident like this. 



The power line was there before the pour and will be there long after the pour is complete.

The majority of construction injuries can be traced to new employees during their first 30 days on the job. According to this article, this operator, who may have or may not have had previous experience, had worked for this employer for only a few weeks.

Staying Alive:

- Concrete pump safety starts in the office with top management driving the issue well before the pump even gets there.
- Use and review a Job Hazard Analysis. Filling out a JHA is much easier and far more pleasant than attending the funeral of a friend.
- Kill the power.
- Mark the lines.
- Raise the lines or move the lines.
- Use a series of ground markers, flags, warning tape or barricades to delineate a minimum 10 ft distance away from the power line. 20 feet is even better.
- Illuminate the lines during night pours.
- Require or provide a spotter whenever concrete pump trucks must unfold booms in the vicinity of power lines.
- Insist on proper concrete pump outrigger deployment and proper ground support.
- Don't allow anyone to loiter or lean up against the pump when power lines are in the area.
- Don't tolerate behavior by anyone who displays a disregard for the danger posed by power lines.
- Consider the installation of a proximity warning device on the concrete pump boom.

REMINDER: Power line accidents are 100 % preventable, virtually 100% of the time.