



## Worker dies after being thrown back by concrete pump hose

A concrete pump truck was pumping concrete into the walkway of a house while a worker held the end hose. The rubber hose was 20 feet (6 metres) long and had a coupling device attached at the end. The operator of the concrete pump truck saw that the concrete had stopped flowing out of the hose as the result of a blockage. He pushed the emergency stop button and the pumping stopped. However, compressed air trapped behind the blockage forced it to clear suddenly. Concrete burst out of the hose, causing the hose to whip out. The worker holding the hose fell backwards. He struck his head on a piece of scrap lumber and later died of his injuries.

### Safe work practices:

- Train workers to prevent blockages in pumping delivery pipelines and to recognize the warning signs of blockages with trapped air behind them.
- Establish and enforce safe work procedures for concrete pumping operations, including the following:
  - Maintain regular communication between workers about hazards while the pumping operation is in progress.
  - Stay out of the end-hose discharge area when air has entered the delivery system and a blockage is suspected.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for the operation and maintenance of concrete pump trucks. For example, the end hose should be no longer than the manufacturer allows, and it should not have a coupling attached at the end.

