

NRMCA Monthly Safety Initiative

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CHUTE HANDLING SAFETY



Chute Safety

Mixer truck drivers can be exposed to serious hazards while handling their flop-over and extension chutes. Lifting, carrying, handling, swinging, falling and pinching are all common hazards of chute handling. Not following or not establishing procedures for safe chute handling will ultimately result in injuries. The outcomes are needless pain and suffering to mixer drivers and their families, serious financial implications and recording and reporting requirements.

Handling Recommendations

Specific chute handling injuries can include back, shoulder and arm strains, foot injuries, head injuries, pinched fingers and even amputations. These injuries can be avoided when properly following chute handling procedures. Policies that should be considered include: Only allow mixer drivers to handle chutes. Wear proper PPE, including a good pair of work gloves. Always lock the chute in position when folding, unfolding, or adding extension chutes; and before discharging concrete. Unfold the flop-over chute, keeping hands away from either end to avoid pinch hazards. Carefully unsecure extension chutes from the vehicle. Use good lifting techniques; feet firmly planted, back straight, bend at the knees. Grasp extension chutes firmly, and only from the sides, never the ends. Hold extension chutes balanced on your shoulders or close to your body in an upright position. Walk slowly and deliberately while carrying chutes. Should you lose balance, throw the chute away from your body. Attach extension chutes, grasping from the sides to eliminate pinching hazards. Do not drop chutes into place. Verify chute placement before swinging or moving the chute assembly. Leave chutes in place unattended only when locked. Never stand on or lift objects with the chute assembly. Clean chutes regularly to limit buildup. Use chute closure devices and safety chains on flop-over chutes when not in use. Secure extension chutes on the truck with safety chains or straps and verify use.

Actions

Quick considerations for chute safety practices:

- Think first
- Have a plan
- Focus on individual tasks when deploying and stowing chutes
- Know the hazards of chute handling
- Do not rush
- Be especially careful of pinch points

Resources

For more information on chute handling and working safely around mixer trucks please follow the links below.

NRMCA: [Working Safely On and Around Mixer Trucks](#)

NRMCA: [Safety Series](#)

NRMCA: [Mixer Driver Manual](#)



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