

NRMCA Monthly Safety Initiative

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Power Line Safety – When Lines Are Low, Take It Slow

Power Line Safety

Construction sites can be difficult places to work. There are areas of limited visibility along with a variety of activity. In some cases, power lines may be low hanging, are usually not insulated, and can easily be pulled down by mixer trucks. Temporary and/or permanent ground power units also pose a potentially hazardous situation for the mixer driver. Overhead and buried power lines can be dangerous due to high voltage. Ready mixed concrete producer personnel should always be on the lookout for power lines and any unsafe conditions. At ready mixed concrete plants mark all overhead power lines.



What to Know About Power Lines on a Ready Mixed Concrete Jobsite

Assume that all lines are energized. Mixers trucks have pulled down power lines due to their height. The trucks are so powerful that the driver is usually unaware of the issue. The overhead power lines and supporting guide lines have also been run into or backed over. Electrical transfer boxes are not always easy to see and have been run over or backed into. When entering the jobsite, drivers should look for overhead power lines, and use the "10 foot rule". Even if a person or equipment does not come into contact with a power line, electricity can arc from power lines. Keep all vehicles, equipment, tools, and people at least 10 feet away from all overhead power lines. Including during chute rinse-off. NRMCA and the American Concrete Pumping Association (ACPA) recommend keeping a minimum of 20 feet from energized electrical lines when operating a concrete pump. Never assume the power has been cut to the lines, assume they are live at all times. If someone has made contact with electrical lines do not touch the person, tools, or equipment. Warn others to stay away and call 911 immediately.

Power Line Safety Do's and Don'ts

- Treat all power lines as though they are live.
- Look for power lines and supporting lines as you enter the jobsite.
- Walk and survey the jobsite before entering. Encourage GC's to mark overhead lines.
- Make it a habit to LOOK UP.
- Keep your mixer and all equipment at least 10 feet from power lines.
- Always back up slowly, with caution, and use a spotter when available.
- Don't exit the truck when a powerline is down or if the truck makes contact with the line. If you must exit, jump with feet together and then hop or shuffle.



Resources

NRMCA: [Power Line Safety for Ready Mixed Concrete Drivers](#)

OSHA: [Safety and Health Topics – Electrical](#)

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