



Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Job Site Location: \_\_\_\_\_

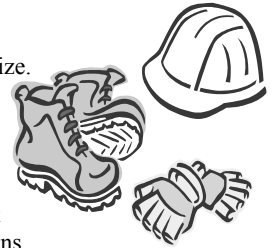
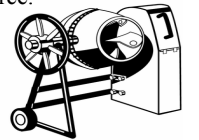
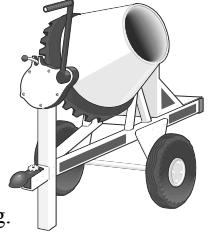
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Finish Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Foreman/Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Topic 243: Mortar and Concrete Mixer Safety**

**Introduction:** Many small concrete jobs and practically all masonry jobs require the use of portable powered mixers to speed up the process. Though these machines have been in use for years and regardless of whether gas or electric powered, they still pose work hazards because of the employee's close proximity to moving parts, lifting hazards, and splash hazards.

**Following are some basic safety rules that will help prevent the most common injuries from occurring from the use of these machines:**

- **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 equipment that is unsafe.
- **Never attempt to repair or adjust** a mixer when it is operating, with the exception of the carburetor on a gasoline mixer. Do not fuel gas powered machines while 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. Level machine with jacks and blocks before operating and make sure wheels are securely blocked.
- **Get help to move the mixer** from one location to another. When moving or handling mixers, be sure to lift correctly with legs and use as many people as necessary to get the job done safely.
- **Always add** a small amount of water to the mixing drum before putting 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/or connections. Make sure the extension cord is properly 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 eyes, do not rub them, sand may scratch the eye causing further injury. Wash 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.
- **When dumping a batch** of mixed material, be extremely careful not to place fingers or hands near or on the pinch points of the drum or hopper.
- **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 and damage the mixer or injure the operator. Always place safety grate in mortar mixer when adding material, never allow any part of the body in the mixer while it is running.
- **Clean the mixer** with water immediately after each use to remove all material. A dirty mixer may throw out pieces of hard mortar when used again that could cause injury. Do not scrub the mixer with a brush when mixer is running.
- **Remove all loose material** from mixer and frame before trailering mixer to prevent hazard to other drivers.
- **Make sure** the hitch is the correct size before trailering mixers, check for the proper weight ratings, and proper ball size. Always secure safety chains correctly and check that mixer tires are properly inflated and in decent condition.
- **If cleaning a mixer** with a pneumatic chipping hammer becomes necessary, wear hearing and eye protection. Respiratory protection may also be necessary, as silica dust is a health hazard.



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

### **Work Site Review**

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

Personnel Safety Violations: \_\_\_\_\_

**Employee Signatures:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 (My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)


**Foreman/Supervisor's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

*These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.*