



# Safety Matters

Talking Points for

Cool Insuring Agency, Inc.: Your construction workplace safety partner

## Constructing Masonry Walls

Constructing concrete and masonry walls is extremely dangerous because the loads are heavy. Workers are at risk both when slabs and walls are positioned by jacks and lifting equipment, and when shoring is required until structures can support themselves. For example, if you are working near a free-standing masonry block wall and there are gusting winds, it could collapse on you or your co-workers. Follow these safety tips to ensure an injury-free workday.

### Shoring and Reshoring

- Inspect all shoring equipment prior to use. Damaged equipment should never be used.
- If equipment is weakened during use, it should be immediately reinforced.
- Adjustments of single-post shores to raise formwork should not be made after concrete placement.

### Reinforcing Steel

- Prevent unrolled wire mesh from recoiling by securing each end or turning the roll over.
- Reinforcing steel for walls, piers, columns and similar structures should be properly supported to prevent collapse.
- All protruding reinforcing steel must be guarded.

### Framework Removal

- Do not remove forms and shores until the concrete has gained enough strength to support its weight and superimposed loads.
- Reshoring should not be removed until the concrete being supported has reached ample strength to support its weight and all loads placed upon it.

### Precast Concrete

- Wall units, structural framing and tilt-up wall panels must be adequately supported to prevent overturning and collapse until permanent connections are put into place.
- Only essential employees should be underneath precast concrete being placed into position.

### Lift-Slab Operations

- Do not overload jacking equipment.
- Unless you are essential to the jacking operation, do not enter the building/structure or stand beneath a slab being lifted.

### General Safety Requirements

- Do not place construction loads on a concrete structure unless a person qualified in structural design determines that the structure is capable of supporting the load.
- Do not stand behind the jack during tensioning operations.
- Steer clear of working under concrete buckets that are in motion. Never ride a concrete bucket.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the head and face must always be worn when applying a cement, sand and water mixture through a pneumatic hose.
- Use automatic holding devices to support forms in case a lifting mechanism falls.
- Do not enter the constructing and lifting worksite unless it is absolutely necessary.
- Above all, always work with a cautious eye!

**Though they are made of sturdy materials, concrete and masonry walls are not stable until permanent supporting materials are in place.**

**Exercise caution around these structures to reduce your risk of injury.**

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