



Safety Alert

Fatal injury – concrete pumping operation

17 July 2023

The following page of this safety alert was issued by:

Balfour Beatty

NHa334

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and well**

SAFETY ALERT

UK/SA/2023/003
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Fatal injury - concrete pumping operation

What happened?



On Thursday 6 July 2023 at our AWE Aldermaston site, following the successful completion of concrete pumping on a Casagrande B300 continuous flight auger piling rig, the piling team commenced work to clean the concrete pumping system using compressed air. During this cleaning operation, a blockage was encountered.

As the team worked to clear the blockage, tragically, one of our colleagues was fatally injured. Our thoughts are with our colleague's family, friends and co-workers at this time.

A second colleague was injured in the incident and later discharged from hospital.

An investigation commenced immediately. Our safety leaders will ensure that any learnings from the investigation are shared and implemented as

soon as possible.

Action Required:

In advance of the findings from the investigation, all site leads are reminded that all processes and procedures associated with concrete pumping activities are mandatory and are required to be supervised as appropriate.

With immediate effect, site leads must review the site-specific risk assessment and method statement for all concrete pumping and plant & equipment cleaning operations. Once reviewed, site leads must confirm to their Health, Safety and Environment lead that all currently required control measures are in place, including, but not limited to:

- All equipment identified in the safe system of work is on site and in good condition.
- Hoses, pipes, joint clips and restraint wires (whip check) have been checked and are suitable for use.
- Hoses are clearly identifiable with a serial number and inspected in accordance with the required maintenance regime.
- The safe systems of work for pumping, pipe and hose cleaning, and dealing with blockages, have been briefed to the whole team involved in the operations, including the requirement to stop work and report any blockages that may occur to the supervisor.
- Only competent operatives are authorised to operate concrete pumps and air compressors.
- An exclusion zone is in place when pumping and cleaning operations are in progress.
- [A Permit to Pump Concrete](#) is in place before concreting operations begin.
- Measures ensuring that only concrete that is within its curing time limit is used.
- Regular monitoring to ensure these control measures remain in place.

Lee Hewitt
Health, Safety & Environment Director