

MS – Toolbox Meeting Records			MRG-CF-TCR-07
Rev: 2.0	Next Rev Date: July 2028	Issue Date: July 2024	

Toolbox Talk No: 292

Issue:	Concrete Works Safety		
Location:	Via SMS Text Message, MRG Employee Portal	Date:	18/03/2026
Briefed by:	Via SMS and Portal	Time:	10.30

Points Raised and Comments

Purpose of this Toolbox Talk
Concrete works are a core activity within rail construction and maintenance but present multiple hazards including chemical exposure, manual handling risks, and interaction with plant and equipment. This toolbox talk outlines the safe work practices and controls required to carry out concrete works safely within the rail corridor.

Why Concrete Works are High Risk in Rail Environments
Rail environments introduce additional risks such as:

- Limited access and uneven ballast surfaces
- Working near live rail and electrical systems
- Tight work zones with multiple trades and plant
- Time constraints during possessions

These factors increase the likelihood of injury, exposure, and incidents if controls are not followed.

Common Hazards / Causes

- Skin contact with wet concrete causing chemical burns
- Manual handling of heavy formwork, mesh, and materials
- Slips, trips, and falls from wet or uneven surfaces
- Uncontrolled movement of concrete trucks and pumps
- Exposure to dust during cutting or grinding
- Poor housekeeping and inadequate site preparation

Mandatory Controls & Safe Work Practices

Planning & Preparation

- Review SWMS and confirm scope of works
- Ensure rail protection, permits, and access approvals are in place
- Identify exclusion zones and access/egress paths

PPE Requirements

- Gloves, long sleeves, long pants, and eye protection
- Safety boots (rail compliant)
- Respiratory protection where dust is generated
- Wash exposed skin immediately after contact with concrete

Manual Handling

- Use mechanical aids where practicable
- Conduct team lifts for heavy or awkward items
- Apply correct lifting techniques at all times

Plant & Equipment

- Establish and maintain exclusion zones around pumps and trucks
- Use spotters where required

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all operators are competent and authorised <p>Work Area & Housekeeping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain clean and organised work areas • Manage slurry, spills, and washout areas appropriately • Ensure safe access and clear walkways at all times <p>Rail-Specific Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain clearance from tracks and live electrical systems • Ensure works remain within approved rail protection limits • Maintain constant situational awareness of rail movements and plant <p>Supervisor Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure SWMS and controls are implemented • Verify PPE compliance and safe work practices • Monitor plant movements and exclusion zones • Stop unsafe work immediately <p>Worker Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow SWMS and instructions at all times • Use PPE correctly and maintain hygiene • Report hazards, incidents, or unsafe conditions • Remain aware of rail corridor risks <p>Stop Work Authority</p> <p>Stop work immediately if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rail protection is not in place • Unsafe plant movement or conditions are observed • PPE or controls are inadequate • There is risk of exposure or injury <p>Emergency Procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For concrete burns: wash affected area immediately with clean water • Report all incidents to Supervisor • Provide first aid if trained • Contact 000 in the event of serious injury • Secure the area and prevent further exposure <p>Key Takeaways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wet concrete can cause serious burns—protect your skin • Plan all works and maintain control of the area • Use safe lifting practices and mechanical aids • Stay clear of plant and follow instructions • Maintain awareness of rail hazards at all times



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