



SAFETY PAGES

September 2021
Safety Pages:

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Remember if you have any safety suggestions, questions or concerns please let us know. In addition, if you have a safety topic that you would like covered in a Safety Page for training purposes let us know and we will develop one. Topics to our inventory of monthly Safety Pages are continually being added.



The OHBA/SAIF Safety Pages are an ongoing series of pages, designed to provide a selection of safety topics each month to OHBA members. Please use these pages to add to (or start) either a Safety Committee file or manual for your company. Some of the Safety Pages will be on general topics and others will be for Owner/Supervisors. The Owner/Supervisor Safety Pages will be on topics based more on compliance or suggested management safety practices.

IMPORTANT NOTICE OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Oregon Home Builders Association Safety Committee's purpose is to provide safety guidelines, information and resources to help our members work more safely and reduce jobsite accidents. Full and active monthly participation in safety meetings using the OHBA Safety Committee's agendas, topics and checklists will only meet safety committee requirements. It remains your responsibility to comply with all aspects of safety rules and regulations.

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OHBA Safety Pages: Safe Driving - Back to School

School days bring congestion: Yellow school buses are picking up their charges, kids on bikes are hurrying to get to school before the bell rings, harried parents are trying to drop their kids off before work.

It's never more important for drivers to slow down and pay attention than when kids are present – especially before and after school.



If You're Dropping Off

Schools often have very specific drop-off procedures for the school year. Make sure you know them for the safety of all kids. More children are hit by cars near schools than at any other location, according to the National Safe Routes to School program. The following apply to all school zones:

- Don't double park; it blocks visibility for other children and vehicles
- Don't load or unload children across the street from the school
- Carpool to reduce the number of vehicles at the school

Sharing the Road with School Buses

If you're driving behind a bus, allow a greater following distance than if you were driving behind a car. It will give you more time to stop once the yellow lights start flashing. It is illegal in all 50 states to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children.

- Never pass a bus from behind – or from either direction if you're on an undivided road – if it is stopped to load or unload children
- If the yellow or red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended, traffic must stop
- The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children; stop far enough back to allow them space to safely enter and exit the bus
- Be alert; children often are unpredictable, and they tend to ignore hazards and take risks without thinking.



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Supervisor: _____ (Print) _____ (Signature)

OHBA Safety Pages: Noise & Hearing Loss

Our hearing is precious to us. Once we diminish or lose our hearing, we can never fully recover it. Both on the job and at home there are many sources of noise which can damage our hearing. These sounds can damage sensitive structures in the inner ear and cause noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL). Approximately 26 million Americans have some type of noise-induced hearing loss. According to the CDC, over 22 million workers are exposed to hazardous noise levels at work each year. Occupational hearing loss is one of the most common workplace injuries today in the United States.



How the Ear is Damaged from Noise

Hearing depends on a series of events that change sound waves in the air into electrical signals. Our auditory nerve then carries these signals to the brain through a complex series of steps. To breakdown the process simply- the sound waves travel through the ear and eventually move hair cells up and down in the ear that cause channels to open. This allows chemicals to rush into a cell that creates an electrical signal that translates the sound into something we can understand.

Most noise-induced hearing loss is caused by the damage and eventual death of these hair cells. Unlike bird and amphibian hair cells, human hair cells don't grow back. They are gone for good.

Signs and Symptoms of Noise Induced Hearing Loss

Most damage due to noise is gradual and over time. Because of this, many people ignore or do not realize that their hearing is being damaged. It becomes noticeable to an individual when it is harder to understand someone talking or needing to turn the TV volume up.

Damage can also occur from a single loud impulse noise such as a gunshot or explosion. These types of noises can rupture the eardrum or damage the bones in the middle ear. This kind of NIHL can be immediate and permanent. Loud noise exposure can also cause tinnitus—a ringing, buzzing, or roaring in the ears or head. Tinnitus may subside over time but can sometimes continue constantly or occasionally throughout a person's life. Hearing loss and tinnitus can occur in one or both ears. Sometimes temporary hearing loss can subside, however the event that caused it can still cause long term damage to your hearing.

Hearing Damage Prevention

- The best way to protect yourself is to eliminate the exposure to the noise. That can be achieved by removing yourself from the area the noise is in or eliminating the excessive noise altogether.
- Engineering controls are the second-best choice in protection from noise. Sound barriers, enclosures, and noise dampening systems are examples of engineering controls that will bring down the level of noise in an area.
- Administrative controls such as training on using hearing protection, job rotation, breaks, and routine maintenance programs are some ways that protect workers from being exposed to hazardous noise.
- PPE is the last line of defense. It is important to know the levels of noise that remain after applying the other techniques mentioned above. For noises between 85 decibels and 100 decibels on an 8 hour TWA, ear plugs will be enough to protect you if worn correctly. Over 100 decibels requires double hearing protection, an example is earplugs and earmuffs.



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OHBA Safety Pages: Emergency Preparedness

Are You Ready for a Disaster?



[National Preparedness Month](#), sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and held annually in September, is a good reminder that natural and man-made disasters can strike at any time. It's important to have a planned response when you're at work, on vacation or on the road.

In 2017, 59,985 weather-related events resulted in 592 deaths and 4,270 injuries. Flash floods, tropical storms and heat waves resulted in the most deaths that year, [according to Injury Facts](#).

The National Safety Council offers safety tips specific to each of the following emergencies:

- [Earthquake](#), [Flood](#), [Hurricane](#), and [Tornado](#)

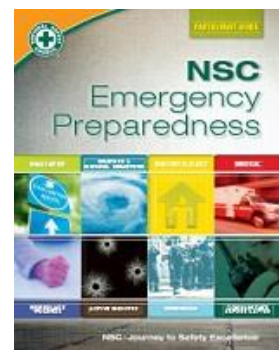
Federal agencies, like [Ready.gov](#), the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), also are valuable resources for emergency preparedness. When you face a natural or man-made emergency, try to stay informed through radio, TV or the Internet. In some cases, however, cable, electric and cell phone service will be disabled, making communication nearly impossible. The National Safety Council recommends the following general precautions that apply to many disaster situations:

- Make sure to have a [family/employee communication plan](#) in place; all members of the family or employees should review and practice the plan
- Have all family members', employees' and other important phone numbers written down or memorized
- Have an [emergency kit in your car](#) and at least [three days of food and water at home](#)
- Be sure to store all important documents – birth certificates, insurance policies, etc. – in a fire-proof safe or safety deposit box
- Assign at least one family member or employee (preferably many) the responsibility of learning first aid and CPR
- Know how to shut off utilities

Workplace Emergency Preparedness Training

From weather-related issues to active shooters, it's critical for employees to know what to do before, during and after an emergency.

Visit <https://www.nsc.org/home-safety/safety-topics/emergency-preparedness> for tips, plans, and training materials.



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OHBA Safety Pages: Portable Cement Mixer Safety

Construction machinery frequently has pinch and nip point hazards including gear, belts, chain drives, sprockets, and rotating parts. Portable cement mixers can be hazardous due to the rotating mixing drum or rotating paddles inside the drum. A body part can be caught between the rotating drum and a stationary part of the mixer. Electrical power can also be a potential hazard.



Recommended Safe Practices Prior to Use

- Observe work area conditions. Work areas should be clear of debris and obstructions which could cause the operator to slip, trip or fall into the mixer. The cement mixer should be on a flat and level surface to prevent tipping, rolling, or falling. Do not use in wet locations.
- Dress properly. Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry as they can be caught in moving parts. Wear proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and wear restrictive hair covering to contain long hair.
- Check for wear and damaged parts. Before using, check to determine that the mixer will operate properly. Any broken or missing parts must be repaired or replaced before using. Check for proper machine guarding and assure the electrical power cord is in good condition. Have Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter protection when using an electric powered mixer outdoors or in damp locations to prevent a shock/fire hazard. Do not use cement mixer if it is not in proper working order.
- For gas powered mixers, always shut off engine before fueling. Be aware of hot exhaust and do not use gas powered mixer indoors as carbon monoxide may accumulate and cause a atmospheric breathing hazard.

Recommended Safe Practices During Use

- Make sure all tools and other equipment are removed from the cement mixer prior to turning it on.
- The cement mixer should be rotating when filling or emptying the mixer.
- Do not overload mixer. An overload could damage the mixer.
- Never leave the mixer running unattended.
- Do not move the cement mixer during operation. The mixer could tip over or the motor could be damaged.
- When transporting the mixer, disconnect the power cord or shut off the engine and make sure the drum is empty of all material.
- Keep guards in place during operation.
- Only use accessories that are recommend by the manufacturer.
- Disconnect the power or shut off the engine from the mixer and place the switch in the locked or off position before servicing, adjusting, installing accessories or attachments. Such preventive safety measures reduce the risk of starting the cement mixer accidentally.
- Practice environmental pollution control procedures by cleaning the mixer in a designated area where concrete and rinse water can be contained so they do not pollute storm drains or surface water.



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