



Photo credit: Sandy Guida



Issue No. 4

May 2017

Ontario's Organized Concrete Finishing Industry

FINISHING NEWS

New Concrete Finisher Health & Safety Manual Published !



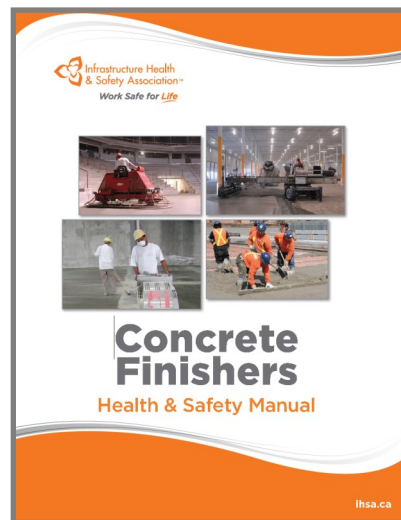
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We are pleased to announce the publication of the new [IHSA](#) Concrete Finisher Health & Safety Manual available for free download [HERE](#).

This Manual is written for Concrete Finishers and is designed to promote safety awareness, responsibilities, common hazards and advanced knowledge in an effort to promote safe work practices and injury avoidance.

Everyone is encouraged to obtain a copy of this important document – talk to your union representative for a Printed copy.



CO Monitor Calibration

Remember that Carbon monoxide (CO) can become a problem any time there are exhaust fumes and poor fresh air ventilation so make sure to use your CO monitors in the summer months as well! Please remember that:

1. CO Monitors require periodic calibration to ensure their accuracy. Remember to bump test your units between calibration to test it (download your CO data at the same time).
2. [Our primary goal is to try and keep CO under 25ppm throughout an 8 hour work day](#) (under 17ppm for a 10 hour day!). Any time CO emissions exceed 25ppm, engine fumes should be reduced along with increased efforts to ventilate fumes and supply fresh air.
3. If CO exposure exceeds 75 ppm then turn off engines and fully ventilated the workspace to remove the fumes below this value.
4. Do not work in areas of ≥ 125 ppm at any time—this is the maximum ceiling limit. Turn off all engines and sources of fumes, evacuate the work area, exhaust fumes and ventilate with fresh air (notify your supervisor).

Remember that Carbon Monoxide is an odorless and tasteless gas so be careful at all times—bring a monitor with you for safety ! [LINK Ont. Reg. 213 S.47.](#)



HYPERLINKS

Check out the internet [hyperlinks](#) throughout this newsletter for more information

CANADA 150



Congratulations to the Concrete Finisher Class of 2017 !

Concrete Finisher skills and knowledge training continues at the [LIUNA 506 Training Centre](#) with both Level 1 and 2 Concrete Finisher classes.

Our [Ontario College of Trades](#) registered “Concrete Finisher” Apprentices are now getting more hands on experience using advanced Red-Seal training methods and materials. Journeymen are encouraged to mentor these registered apprentices to continue our proud tradition of having the best Concrete Finishers in Canada!

If you are interested in skills training, call or [email](#) the Training Center at 905-883-4268 for more information!

Special thanks to Jack Cerqueira, Ted Gedney, Merissa Preston and Omar Passos for their continuing efforts!



*We are pleased to welcome
3 Syrian refugees to this class—
with our best wishes for peace and
prosperity to you and your families
in our great land!*



Level 1:

Yousef Alamour
Atia Alassaf
Mohammad Al-Mohallel
Wayne Davis
Michael Dos Santos
Stefan Knight
Yanni Kondilas
David Levy
Austin Maclean

Level 2:

Robert Andrews
Isaac Argueta Batres
James Dorion Silva
Brandon Farrugia
Marcus Hobson
Kevin Hodgson

Workplace Safety Communication is CRITICAL !

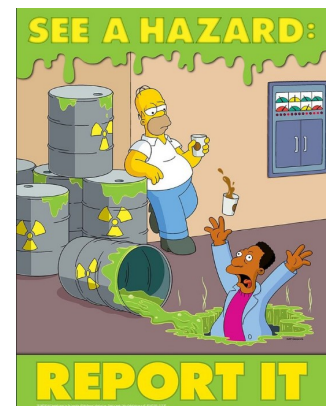
One of the keys to good safety performance is good communication. It is critical for everyone to be involved in identifying and communicating safety concerns quickly to prevent injuries! Never delay to report a safety concern to your supervisor—take action before someone gets hurt!

The [Occupation Health & Safety Act](#) was not written for Concrete Finishers but it does state that workers should select a representative to discuss safety concerns with company managers on a monthly basis. If you have any interest in safety in your workplace, then we encourage you to talk with your employer to get involved!

We recommend that employers set up a safety email address to increase communication about safety concerns. You can send safety suggestions or concerns to safety@cflra.ca as well (all submissions are confidential).

Please remember that it is critical for you to bring concerns about health and safety to the attention of your supervisor immediately.

No one should perform work that they have not been trained to perform safely—don't take any chances with your life or with those working around you. Let's all look out for each other for improved safety too!



STEEL TROWEL FINISHING CONCRETE WITH MORE THAN 3% AIR = SURFACE DELAMINATIONS

Steel trowel finishing air-entrained concrete results in the formation of horizontal delaminations in new concrete floors. Steel trowel finishing concrete with more than 3% air can also result in surface delaminations in new floors as well.

The Canadian concrete standard CSA A23.1 warns of this problem stating the following: “Trowel finishing of concrete having a total air content in excess of 3% may result in blistering and delaminations” and “Surface delaminations can occur if a machine trowel finish is applied to air-entrained concrete.”

CSA A23.1 requires that air tests be performed with every cylinder strength test. If you are steel trowel finishing then make sure that the air content is less than 3% to avoid problems!

Lab test results on a core sample taken from a slab on grade with surface delaminations caused by steel trowel finishing air-entrained concrete:

Top 4mm:	0% air
Top 25mm	Air quantity % too low
Top 85mm:	Air size & spacing incorrect

This concrete is no longer freeze-thaw resistant to a depth of 85mm caused by pan floating and steel trowel finishing.

BEWARE:

Concrete pump boom and delivery truck boom-crane movements Bull float, check-rod & highway straightedge handle movements

6 Powerline Safety Tips for Construction Workers:

1. **Look up, look out!** Identify all powerlines on site and make sure people and equipment stay at least three metres away to prevent an incident. Electricity can jump to you or your equipment if you're too close to a powerline.
2. Be sure to contact your local utility or call [Ontario One Call](#) to **have a cable locate** done for all utility-owned underground infrastructure before you begin any excavation work. Privately-owned underground powerlines require a private locate.
3. Drivers of dump trucks and other high reach vehicles must **get a signaller** to ensure that equipment doesn't come within three metres of overhead powerlines.
4. Ensure that dump trucks on site **drop their box** after dropping off the load. It's good practice to have a raised box indicator installed in the truck to remind the driver that the box is raised.
5. **Stay alert!** Many incidents happen at the end of the day when workers are tired or rushing to finish a job.
6. If wires fall down on the truck or the ground, always assume they are still energized. **Stay in the vehicle**, call 911 and keep everyone back. Only the local utility worker on-site can confirm when the power is off and tell you when it's safe to exit the vehicle.



WHAT YOU CAN DO:



This message is brought to you by 44,000 volts.

#RespectThePower
[esasafer.com](#)



There have been two
Concrete Finisher
fatalities due to bull
float handle contact
with overhead wires!

MYTH: If a powerline falls on my car, I should get out and run to safety right away.

FACT: The car and the ground around it may be electrified and you could be killed if you get out of the vehicle. Stay inside until the utility workers tell you it's safe to get out. Tell everyone to stay back 10 metres or 33 feet.

Ontario Construction Regulation 213 s. 188

Energized overhead electrical conductor minimum safe distances

Item	Column 1 Nominal phase-to-phase voltage rating	Column 2 Minimum distance
1.	750 or more volts, but no more than 150,000 volts	3 m
2.	more than 150,000 volts, but no more than 250,000 volts	4.5 m
3.	more than 250,000 volts	6 m

Ontario Construction Health & Safety Action Plan PUBLISHED!



[CLICK HERE to download](#)



Picture of the month

With thanks to Sandy Guida at [Tri-Con](#)

Send in your favorite Concrete Finishing picture and we will feature it in our next issue. But be safe and don't get in trouble!

BLOCK OUT AND GUARD MACHINERY TO PREVENT WORKPLACE INJURIES !

We are reminded again through recent workplace tragedies to guard all moving parts in machinery while in operation and also to block out any movement while being repaired.

In January this year a concrete worker was killed while repairing a mortar mixer. The impact of this workplace death is devastating to the family of the worker, his fellow workers and his employer as well—no one wants anyone to get injured or killed at work at any time.

The [Ontario Construction Regulation 213](#) requires all equipment must be de-energized, securely locked in position before any maintenance work begins:

"108. Blocking shall be installed to prevent the collapse or movement of part or all of a piece of equipment that is being dismantled, altered or repaired if its collapse or movement may endanger a worker. O. Reg. 213/91, s. 108."

Regulation 213 also requires that all moving parts be guarded to prevent workers from being pulled into moving machinery:

"109. Every gear, pulley, belt, chain, shaft, fly-wheel, saw and other mechanically-operated part of a machine to which a worker has access shall be guarded or fenced so that it will not endanger a worker. O. Reg. 213/91, s. 109."

**DON'T TAKE ANY CHANCES—
NOTIFY YOUR SUPERVISOR OF
UNSAFE CONDITIONS IMMEDIATELY!**

Watch out for heat illness & prepare for hot temperatures !

Watch for symptoms of heat illness, which include:

- dizziness or fainting;
- nausea or vomiting;
- headache;
- rapid breathing and heartbeat;
- extreme thirst (dry mouth or sticky saliva);
- stopped sweating; and
- decreased urination with unusually dark yellow urine.

If you experience any of these symptoms during hot weather, **immediately** move to a cool place and drink liquids.



While waiting for help - cool the person right away by:

- 1) moving them to a cool place (if you can do this safely) or shade them from the sun; and
- 2) Apply cold water to large areas of the skin or clothing; and
- 3) fan the person.

The effects of heat illness can be fatal if left untreated—construction workers have died from heat stress. In hot temperatures it's extremely important to drink plenty of fresh water. In periods of extreme heat it is necessary to consider all work activities carefully to protect and prevent heat illness. Don't forget to make check that everyone else is staying hydrated too (we must look out for each other)!

Heat stroke is a medical emergency!

Call 911 or your local emergency number immediately if you are caring for someone, such as a co-worker, who has a high body temperature and is either unconscious, confused and/or overly dehydrated.



Other Industry News

- *Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by turning off idling engines!*
- *Please remind everyone about "Cement Burns"—keep wet cement paste off your skin at all times!*
- *To avoid problems caused by the wrong concrete being sent to job sites, no one should be signing concrete delivery tickets unless they have been instructed to do so by your company supervisor.*
- *Make sure that air testing is being done with all cylinder tests (must be less than 3% for steel trowel finishing).*
- *Protect the concrete surfaces from drying out too fast—use a surface evaporation reducing film like [EUCOBAR](#), [EVAPRE](#) or [SIKAFILM](#) (see [FINISHING NEWS Summer 2016](#)).*
- *Congratulations to Mr. Paul Bravo of [Bravo Cement Windsor](#) and Mr. Frank Calvi of [United Floor](#) on being awarded the CFCA's [Geoff Kinney Industry Award](#) for outstanding leadership in 2016!*
- *Please remember to wear noise protection when working near equipment (so you can hear better than me when you get older).*

Do you have any questions, suggestions, concerns or news to report ? E-mail us at news@cflra.ca

Industry Internet Link & Phone Directory

Ministry of Labour (Ontario)	... 1-877-202-0008
Labourer's Union Provincial Council 289-291-3678
Operative Plasterers & Cement Mason's 598 905-856-9000
BACU Cement Masons	... 416-239-7374
Cement Finishing Labour Relations Association 289-837-1627
Ontario Formwork Association 905-856-4747
Concrete & Drain Contractors Association	... 905-660-7676
Tile & Terrazzo Guild	... 905-660-5094
Infrastructure Health & Safety Association 905-625-0100
Ontario College of Trades	... 1-855-299-0028
Concrete Floor Contractors Association 905-582-9825
Ready Mixed Concrete Association	... 905-507-1122

Work Safe Bulletin

Guardrails & Fall Protection

Background:
Falls are the number one killer in construction. Be sure to know where the unprotected edges of a job are and how to protect yourself!

Hazard Concern:

CLICK HERE FOR MORE ONLINE SAFETY RESOURCES

Regulation 26.1 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act states that a worker shall be adequately protected by a guardrail system that meets the requirements of subsection 26.3 (2) to (5).

Regulation 26.2 states that if it is not reasonably possible to install a guardrail system, a worker shall be adequately protected by at least one of the following methods of fall protection (in descending order of effectiveness):

1. A travel restraint system;
2. A fall restricting system;
3. A fall arrest system;
4. A safety net.

Note: Before the use of any fall arrest system or safety net by a worker at a project, the worker's employer shall develop written procedures for rescuing the worker or after his or her fall has been arrested.

Further references:

- Ontario Regulation 213 (Construction Projects)
- [Construction Health & Safety Association](#)

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July 22, 2016