

Holcim Australia SHE Alert #350: Date 26/10/2010

The purpose of this safety alert is to raise safety awareness in our workplaces.
Can this happen in your workplace, and if so, what are you doing about it?

Title of Alert	De-dagging
SHE Standard Element	3.15 De-dagging Agitators
Distribution	All Concrete, Humes and Western Region
Date of Incident:	Place of Incident: Boulder Concrete



Piece of Fallen Concrete Dag

Details:

A Holcim employee was in the process of de-dagging an agitator barrel. He had de-dagged the lower end of the barrel and had started to apply the jack hammer between the fin and concrete below waist height when a large piece of concrete between fins 2 and 3 slid from position. This large piece of concrete initially hit the employee on his head and then became wedged on a bracing bar simultaneously impacting the employee's left hand which was on the bracing for support. The employee suffered a severe injury to his left hand requiring surgery and ongoing rehabilitation.

Root Causes:

The investigation revealed that the requirements of the SHE Standard were followed including all training (de-dagging, confined space), permit completion, isolation, emergency preparation etc. The characteristics of the fallen concrete indicate possible inadequate previous wash out practices.

Corrective Actions:

Actions within Western Region and this site included:

- Temporary cessation of de-dagging on sites.
- The ongoing trial of hydro jetting methods for de-dagging that eliminate the requirement for persons to enter the barrel.
- The adoption of the Ready Jet method for the majority of all future site based de-dagging within Western Region. Refer <http://readyjet.com.au/>

Further information		
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