CONCRETE SHIELD HEALTH & SAFETY ALERT

PUMP LINE DISCONNECTION

SEPTEMBER 2026

WHAT HAPPENED?

A concrete truck driver was preparing for a delivery involving a line pump when the pump operator requested concrete be discharged into the hopper after slurry had been added to prime the line. Once the hopper was nearly full, the operator began pumping. After several strokes, a steel pipe disconnected from the 90-degree elbow when the clamp released due to a missing safety pin.

The clamp became airborne and struck the driver's hand while he was standing beside the pump hopper. The driver sustained swelling and a minor abrasion requiring medical assessment. The incident had the potential to result in serious injury from flying equipment or line failure under pressure.

LEARNINGS

Never discharge concrete into a concrete pump unless all safety locking pins are correctly installed and verified. Missing pins can allow clamps and pipework to separate under pressure, creating a significant line-of-fire hazard.

Drivers must complete safe site delivery checks before unloading and visually confirm all pump clamps and safety pins are secure. If safety controls are missing or defective, stop the task immediately and raise the issue with the pump operator. Where the issue cannot be resolved, contact the dispatcher for further direction.

Always stand clear of the line of fire when pumping operations are underway. Reinforce the principles: "Assess the Area" and "Safe Position".



DISCLAIMER

Concrete NZ has developed this alert in the interests of promoting safety awareness. It is not, however, a comprehensive safety publication. Various health and safety (H&S) laws, regulations and standards may apply to the hazard, procedure or matter identified in this publication. Concrete NZ has not conducted a review of applicable H&S laws and following this publication does not ensure your compliance with them. It is your responsibility to be aware of and to comply with all applicable H&S Laws. This publication is not a substitute for proper professional advice.

BE AWARE.
BE ALERT.