

NRMCA Monthly Safety Initiative

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Night Pours... Who's Afraid of the Dark?

Ready Mixed Concrete Producers and Working at Night

Whether it's at the plant, on the road, or at the jobsite, working at night brings another added layer of safety concern to the ready mixed concrete industry. Particularly, construction sites can be difficult places to work. There are areas of limited visibility, along with a lot of activity. In some cases, concrete pours are scheduled for night-time hours to help minimize traffic confusion, and in other cases contractors take advantage of cooler night-time temperatures during the summer months. Night pours can increase the potential for slips, trips, and falls (the highest injury category in the ready mixed concrete industry), not to mention vehicle accidents, as well.



What to Know About Night Work at the Plant and On the Job

Working at a concrete plant during hours of darkness, or on the job at night pours, are a common occurrence for our industry. Many concrete delivery sites are muddy, slippery and have uneven terrain. Adding night conditions with limited visibility always add to the accident potential. Be especially mindful when you take the first step off the mixer and maintain contact with the mixer until you are sure that your footing is secure. Obviously, with night pours comes limited visibility along with impaired depth perception. Temporary jobsite lighting can add a "blinding affect" in some cases. Slowdown around the plant, and at the jobsite during night-time hours. Dew points go up at night making surfaces wet and slippery in some cases. If jobsites are too dark and lack good lightning, inform your supervisor. Make sure to walk the jobsite before entering. Trenches and excavations may be particularly hard to see. Use a spotter wearing a proper safety vest. Be especially mindful of people when maneuvering a mixer at the plant or jobsite at night. And let's not forget early morning pours which can often begin long before the sun even rises. Finally, producers need to be mindful of fatigue that irregular hours can induce, as well as Hours of Service regulations.

Night Pours... Dos and Don'ts

- Think first, slow your vehicle down at night
- Use 3-points of contact, and slow your movements at night
- Don't assume your path is clear
- Use a flashlight or hardhat headlamp to illuminate your path
- Get out and look first when backing at night
- Make sure to wear a proper hi-vis vest
- Use a spotter at night, especially when backing
- Turn off headlights after you back into a pump
- Be just as careful at the plant during hours of darkness



Resources

NRMCA Safety Series: [Night Pours Safety](#)
FMCSA: [Hours of Service](#) (HOS)

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