

Safety Note #142

## PORTABLE CEMENT MIXER SAFETY



Photo Courtesy of  
Sierra Foothill REC

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. See Safety Note #19 (Basic Electrical Safety), Safety Note #22 (Pinch Point Hazards), Safety Note #25 (Safe Fueling Practices) for additional information about electrical, and mechanical, and fuel hazards.

### 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 reduces 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.