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TOOLBOX TALK

Cement Rendering - External

Definition

Cement rendering is the process of applying a sand and cement based mix over a brick wall, it is applied with a trowel. Cement rendering requires both strength and agility.

Identification of Hazards

- Working outside in the elements
- Messy sites/poor site management
- Working with cement based products and additives
- Dust from grinding
- Lifting heavy bags of cement
- Constant bending, twisting and lifting
- Working on trestles and scaffolds
- Walking up ramps
- Materials stored on scaffold or possibly falling off scaffold
- Working with cement mixers

Control measures – includes PPE Required

- Always protect against the elements with appropriate clothing and Sunscreen
- Create a direct path from the stored material to the working point to help avoid trips and falls
- Do not allow cement based products to touch skin, wear gloves and appropriate clothing to avoid, wash regularly, and wash clothes separately to avoid cross contamination
- Wear dusk masks' when grinding and mixing dry products
- Use proper lifting techniques, lift from the knees keeping a straight back
- Loosen up prior to starting, do stretching exercises, work in pairs and share loads
- Keep scaffolds clear of obstacles and complete, check all handrails, short trestles should still be a minimum of 2 planks wide, and kickboards on scaffolds should be in place
- Keep ramps clear and clean, sweep regularly to remove sand, do not remove handrails
- If working below a scaffold, wear a hard hat and if possible have no one working above

Summarise

Cement may cause respiratory problems, wet cement can be irritating and corrosive, and the nature of cement rendering is heavy and dirty, however a well-planned and managed site does go a long way toward managing these risks. Always work with a plan, always prepare the working environment, and always clean up to remove hazards. Always protect yourself with the correct PPE and refer to the MSDS library to understand the materials you are working with.