## Safe setup of heavy equipment

### Explain dangers

The use of concrete pumps and boom trucks is common on most residential sites. In addition to increased productivity, there are ergonomic and safety-related benefits. However, if the site is not set up properly, concrete pumps and boom trucks can be dangerous for the equipment operator as well as for other workers nearby.

1. The concrete pump, concrete delivery truck, or boom truck may block the path of emergency vehicles.
2. Workers may be injured by concrete delivery trucks that are backing up.
3. The pump or truck may tip over.
4. The boom may come in contact with a powerline.

### Identify controls

Proper site planning can prevent many of these problems.

1. The Occupational Health and Safety Act requires every project to have written procedures to follow in case of an emergency. If part of the site is blocked off, emergency vehicles and personnel may not be able to reach injured workers.

   Make a proper staging area by grading driveways or other areas off the road. That will give concrete pumps, boom trucks, and other heavy equipment enough space to set up properly off the road so they won’t block traffic.

2. Concrete delivery trucks need to back up to fill the pump hopper. Always have a designated signaller in place to keep anyone from being hit by a reversing vehicle.

   Regulations require that a signaller wear high-visibility clothing and use pre-arranged hand signals to communicate with the operator (O. Reg. 213/91, s.104 and 106).

### Demonstrate

Review the site plan and staging areas with those involved. This will ensure that concrete pumps and boom trucks will be set up correctly.

Hand out IHSA’s pocket-sized Traffic Control Hand Signals Card (V006) and Ready-mix Driver and Concrete Pumping Hand Signals Card (V007).

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Example of Proper Site Setup