



SAFETY ALERT

Safety For Visitors, Vendors, and Contractors

Many workplace hazards are located within a concrete pipe manufacturing facility. A few common examples of areas containing hazards are: Mobile equipment operations areas, overhead cranes, product delivery and loading areas, etc. Contained within areas such as these are additional exposures such as high noise levels, electrical equipment, moving parts of machinery, congested work areas, and welding flash, just to name a few. Our facility employees receive specialized training to work in and around those items listed above. Our buildings, equipment, and storage yards are inspected, assessed, and those items identified as hazardous are mitigated to the extent possible. Often visitors are unaware of the same hazards. A sound visitor policy can alleviate many of the potential hazards with which untrained visitors could come into contact.

In order to develop solid practices for visitors, it is important to understand “visitor” is a general term, describing anyone who is not employed at a particular site. Some common visitors could be vendors, inspectors, regulators, friends of employees, or even the President of the company. All of these examples cite one characteristic: They do not have an intimate knowledge of the plants processes or equipment. To eliminate/reduce the opportunity for them to be injured, the following Best Safety Practices are options, which may be used:

- A company or plant specific policy relating to handling of visitors;
- A designated area in which to greet and orient visitors to site hazards;
- A written copy of general safety rules applicable to the site provided to the visitor;
- A sign in/sign out log with the time of arrival, and time of departure;
- A method of signifying visitors (colored protective helmet, a visitor badge, etc);
- A procedure for accompanying or monitoring the visitor during h/her time on site;
- Training of site employees regarding responsibilities to observe visitors;
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required for site entry.

A solid visitor program will provide an avenue for communications from the plant management to the visitor, and vice versa. This will result in safer plants, reduced hazards, and an earned reputation for the safety to all who enter our facilities.