

A new *Shotcrete* feature:

# SAFETY SHOOTER



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## **BATTLE #1** **WHO NEEDS SAFETY** **GLASSES??**

A crane operator, carpenter, baseball player or a shotcrete crew? Probably everyone listed should use them. On a scale of 1 to 10, the shotcrete crew would rate a 10 with need. “Who on the crew should wear them?” I asked one of my superintendents, she said, “That’s easy, everyone on

the crew.” The nozzleman and air lance man for obvious reasons, but also the pump operator and potman to protect themselves from dust and shotcrete overspray and rebound. The finishers also need eye protection from constantly working vertical concrete surfaces. The laborers also need protection from rebound, dust and overspray, and the occasional burst hose or coupling!

A shotcrete operation requires several high-pressure pieces of equipment, all of which, unfortunately, can burst. The dry-mix

material hose has an operating pressure in the range of 80 psi (550 kPa), and will build up to over 120 psi (820 kPa) of pressure when there is a plug. An aggregate coming out of this hose is probably traveling at speeds over 130 mph (210 km/h)! If you are standing at 20 ft (6.1 m) from the nozzle, that is a little over one tenth of a second of traveling time. You definitely need good reflexes to avoid the aggregate (assuming you knew it was coming!). Operating pressures in wet mix shotcrete are 10 times higher!

## **BATTLE#2** **HOW TO GET EVERYONE TO WEAR SAFETY GLASSES**

We called a safety glass supplier and found a nicely designed pair of safety glasses. We had our logo put on them. One problem solved. Everyone knew our safety glasses and was proud to wear them. The cost for these new safety glasses was between \$5 and \$6 dollars US. They work great for PR at the job site. On top of that, our foreman runs a “*three strikes you’re out*” safety glass rule. Personnel are given two warnings for safety glasses missing. Third strike you are sent home without pay.