# Unit 112: Construction operations and civil engineering operations

# Worksheet 27: Concrete – safe working (tutor)

1. Concrete is one of the most widely used construction materials. Anyone who uses concrete should be aware that it can be a potential health and safety risk. Research the risks from concrete, either using the resources in the classroom or researching online, and complete the table below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Hazards from concrete | How to take care |
| Skin and eye conditions  Contact with concrete can cause irritation to the skin and eyes resulting in skin conditions such as  cement burns, cement dermatitis and dry skin or irritation to the eyes.  Cement burns  If freshly mixed concrete comes into contact with your skin or eyes, e.g. by falling into your boots or gloves, or by splashing, serious skin or eye burns can occur.  Dermatitis  Irritant or contact dermatitis can result from the combination of wetness, chemical corrosiveness and abrasiveness of concrete. Allergic dermatitis can result when operators become sensitised to the chromium salts in cement or to some other additives. | **Skin and eye protection**  Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be provided to protect skin and eyes.  PPE must comply with British standards:  ■ Goggles  ■ Gloves  ■ Long sleeves  ■ Long pants  ■ Safety rubber boots  ■ Barrier creams.  Clothes should be worn to avoid traps for fresh concrete to fall into, i.e. sleeves over gloves, trouser legs over boots.  **First aid**  ■ If concrete gets onto your skin, immediately flush skin with cool, clean water.  ■ Eye contamination should be flushed with cool, clean water for at least 15 minutes.  Seek medical advice if irritation persists. |