



Concrete Factors

TOOLE OR TOOL

We are familiar with Tim the tool man Taylor. And I can with some reasonable level of certainty say that all of us macho and highly trained professional types, believe we too are absolutely capable of handling tools. After all, how many trips to the most prized big red tool box does it take to get the right one?

I mean really? You with your highly trained eye can take one quick glance at the nut on the back side of that bolt and know immediately it's a 3/16", walk over to your box, sift through the sockets, make your selection and walk directly back to the project ready to knock this job out only to realize it's a confounded **#@* 7/16. Walk back over to our box, quickly redo our search, make our selection, trace our steps back, then place the correct socket on the nut, now only to find the stupid ratchet doesn't work!

But I paid good money for these tools! I bought them on sale at the local Hugh Lot Store, or was it Port Freight? Each of us can recognize the importance of good tools but sometimes we get lost in our decision making process because of cost or frequency of use or it may be a time or distance factor that motivates our decision. Whatever the case, there is not really any benefit on short changing your career by purchasing tools and equipment that are inadequate to do the job. Much less jeopardize your safety or the safety of others.

Most of us in the related industry of concrete use tools and equipment that far supersede the average home tool box, so it doesn't take long to see how quickly the problem of cheap or damaged and neglected equipment impacts our workplace and work force.

Year after year we see and hear of industrial accidents mostly because of human error, but we must never use that as an excuse to continue preventive and ongoing maintenance.

Trying to save dollars and cents at the

expense of employees and placing your companies reputation on the line is just not worth it.

In today's world of legality thoses cost alone would stagger any grown man or woman. I for one never want to have to make that phone call to a family member and inform them there was an accident. Especially if I knew I had cheated on the cost of proper equipment or placed production ahead of maintenance. The tools and equipment you choose should be the best that money can buy. Your employees should have adequate training on the proper safety aspects of each piece of equipment they use during the course of the day, no matter how big or small. Maintenance personnel should have the resources available to complete repairs in a timely manner that keeps production down time at a minimum. Employees should be equipped with the right tools for the right job and know how to use them. Safety meetings should be a common everyday occurrence. Not something that happens after the fact. Safety always , has to be the most important element in your plant.

The tools and equipment that we use everyday are becoming more and more sophisticated. Yet it is those items that we take for granted that jump up to bite us. The importance of safety is everybody's responsibility, whether it's your tools or your equipment. Yes, you can save some dollars at the other place in the selection of tools and equipment. Yes you can make safety a hit and miss.

Yes you can assume your employee's are trained.

But why not do it right the first time? After all, aren't you the highly trained professional?

By David Seuis - Guest Editorial

JUST FOR FUN!

Hidden somewhere in this issue is a small "ladder" that looks like this.

All readers who fax our office with the correct location will be entered into a drawing to

Win a \$25 Gift Certificate.

FAX: 352-351-4730

It could be hidden anywhere (but not on this page!) ... in a feature article, in an advertisement, upside down at the end of a sentence...**ANYWHERE!** So search every page, enjoy this issue and find the hidden item.

The winner will be announced in the Sept. 2007 issue of Concrete Today.



WE HAVE A WINNER!!!

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Well, our winner for the May issue is **Diana Weber of Westside Concrete Accessories, Inc. - Gresham, OR** The "wrench" was hidden on page 20... **Great Work Diana!**

HONORABLE MENTION

There's not enough room to list everyone, but, the following sharp-eyed readers also found the hidden item, but sorry! Only one winner per issue. Better luck next time!

- Jerome Wipf - Spring Prairie Precast Hawley, MN
- Danny Hart - Mid-Way Materials Camden, TN
- Dan Montgomery - Ready Mixed Concrete Charlotte, NC
- Don Wright - Russell Concrete, Inc. Vero Beach, FL
- Mark Brenneman - Chandler Concrete Mountain City, TN
- Duane Littlejohn - Ernst Concrete Troy, OH
- Ronnie Raffield - Couch Ready Mix USA Eastpoint, FL
- Curt Stevenson - Capitol Ready Mix, Inc. Springfield, IL
- JR Crocka - Marshall Ready Mix Marshall, MD
- Don Lashbrook - Hahn Ready Mix Eldridge, IA
- Chris Hernandez - Adriatic Precast Stone, Inc. North Hollywood, CA
- Kelly Davis - Bonner Concrete Products, Inc. Sagle, ID