

PCI Field Safety Talk #6 Importance of Matching Bracing Components



PCI FIELD SAFETY TASK GROUP

Precast concrete bracing components are often necessary for the stabilization of precast concrete structures during erection. This safety talk highlights the importance using the brace components authorized by the brace manufacturer.

Incidents have occurred during the erection of precast concrete structures because of the mismatching of brace components. Using parts from other sizes and types of braces that seem to fit goes against the manufacturers' recommendations and may put workers at risk.

Mismatched bracing components may be a concern when braces have been bought used or rented. Because the braces were previously used by someone else, the erector does not know whether they are free of modification or damage.

Although longer and shorter brace components may have the same size pipe and could fit together, the manufacturers recommend against using the mismatched components together. Mismatching creates a hazardous condition because the pins placed in the same holes of the outside brace component may not engage the inside brace component as a standard brace would.

All brace components should be inspected prior to use and should only be used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation. Braces should be checked for the appropriate component sizes (inner and outer pieces), damage, adjustment mechanisms, and appropriate pins or connectors.

Important Points:

- All braces should be inspected prior to use.
- Braces should only be used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.
- A competent person should oversee the bracing operation.

Note: All crew members should be observant and report to their crew leader anything out of the ordinary on a project. *If you see something, say something.*

NOTES	ATTENDEE SIGNATURES
Date _____ Presenter _____	

