

£7,500 payout over concrete burns

A NORTH Frodingham man who was scarred for life by concrete burns has secured a £7,500 compensation settlement.

Martin Carney, 50, who is married with two children and a material controller for an engineering company, underwent major surgery and skin grafts because of first-degree burns to his feet and ankles.

He was forced to take four months sick leave from work and eventually had to change jobs.

Mr Carney was laying foundations to a new conservatory at his home in North Frodingham using a delivery of dry and wet mix concrete.

Mr Carney told the Driffield Times: "I ordered the concrete from a local supplier and was given no warning- either verbally or in writing- about the dangers of this hazardous material.

"I set about my work and began by levelling the foundations. I must have spent about five hours standing in the concrete, smoothing the surface. I didn't feel anything and carried on with my work.

"I didn't realise until several hours later that whilst I was standing in the concrete it had burnt the nerve endings in my feet and eaten into the skin through my shoes. The pain was excruciating.

"Later I collapsed inside and noticed my feet were red raw, I couldn't walk and was housebound for 10 weeks. In fact, it took almost four months for me to return to work.

"Obviously I wouldn't have stood in the mixture if I'd known the risks associated with concrete, but because the firm, the delivery driver and the packaging failed to warn me, I assumed it was safe.

"Now I have to live with permanent scarring for the rest of my life."

James Reilly, an associate at national law firm Ralli Solicitors, has now agreed the £7,500 compensation payment for Mr Carney.

He commented: "Very few people appear to know about the dangers of using wet concrete. We are increasingly hearing about incompetent companies who fail to highlight the hazards of working with dangerous materials.

"With a material like concrete, warning should have been given verbally by the builder's firm, the delivery driver and featured on a safety sheet alerting customers to the risks of this dangerous substance.

"For none of this to be present leaves the end user more likely to suffer potential injuries. The behaviour of this concrete manufacturer is contrary to Health and Safety legislation and means they are liable for failure to provide adequate warnings in breach of agreement.

"After such an appalling ordeal, we're pleased we've managed to secure compensation for Mr Carney."