

CSI Country Wide Case Study Safety Strategy Discussion

Construction Safety Investigator



Instructions

The objective of this tool is to provide field supervisors with information to proactively engage workers and discuss safety related concerns that they may encounter. Safety discussions should not be limited to the subject above and should pertain to the activities that workers will be involved in that may have the potential for safety related exposures.

Case Day:

April 2008

Accident Type:

Fall Accident - From Bridge

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2), 1926.501, 1926.502, 1926.503

Case:

A construction worker on a bridge was killed when he fell 120 feet.

Accident Detail:

The worker was part of a bridge painting crew, which at the time, was preparing the bridge for a new paint job. The crew was working within a protective shroud where they would remove the old paint along with other environmental contamination in preparation for the new paint.

To prevent them from falling while in the protective shroud and within the confines of the working platform, the workers must “tie-off,” using their personal fall arrest systems to the provided lifelines and anchorage points.

It is unclear why the worker was not tied off, but when he attempted to maneuver from one location within the bridge supports to another, he lost his balance and fell. Since he was not tied off, he fell through the bridge supports and approximately 120 feet to the ground below.

Reconstructive Safety Evaluation:

- What are some of the possible causes of the accident being discussed?
- What actions could have been taken that might have prevented this accident from occurring?

Accident Scene Conclusion:

The investigation revealed that the contractor did have a policy regarding fall protection and had a site specific fall protection plan in place. It was noted that the other workers in the crew were wearing their safety harnesses at the time of the incident.

Preventive Safety Measures Include:

- All operations where there is the potential for employees to fall 6 feet or more to a lower level are preplanned using a Job Safety Task Analysis (JSTA) to ensure potential fall hazards associated with an operation are identified and appropriate steps are taken to eliminate or control them.
- Workers are trained in the hazards of the work they are to perform, the personal protective equipment and safe work procedures necessary to perform their assigned tasks.
- Where it is believed that a worker who has already been trained does not have the understanding and skills required to perform the operations safely, the employee shall be retrained.
- Workers found not complying with the fall protection policy and plan should be immediately removed from the operation until corrective actions can be taken to ensure the employee performs the task according to the fall protection plan and utilizes all required fall protection equipment.
- It is important to remember that it is not only the employer’s responsibility to provide fall protection where needed but also enforce its use by their employees.

Attendance Roster

Reference: This case is fictitious, and any resemblance to any persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental. However, the type of accident described in this case summary happens all too often on construction sites.

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