

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:

November 2009

Accident Type:

Power Tool Accident - Bench Grinder

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2), Manufacturer's operating instructions and safety precautions

Case:

As the result of using a grinding wheel improperly, a construction worker lost both of his thumbs.

Accident Detail:

A contractor employed a construction maintenance mechanic to inspect and maintain the heavy equipment used on a project.

While performing routine maintenance on a piece of equipment, the worker discovered he needed to clean rust and old paint off of a short length of chain used to secure a panel door.

In order to clean the chain, he used a bench grinder with a wire brush wheel which was mounted to a work table inside the maintenance shed. The worker was holding the chain across the grinding wheel brush when the chain became caught by the spinning wheel. The rotating wire wheel brush pulled in the chain and wrapped it around the wheel. When this occurred, the worker's hands were also pulled into the wheel and his thumbs were severed by the sudden binding of the chain he was holding.

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?

