

# CSI Country Wide Case Study Safety Strategy Discussion

## Construction Safety Investigator



### **Instructions**

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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:**

January 2009

### **Accident Type:**

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Accident - Head Protection

### **Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:**

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2), 1926.100, 1926.502(j)

### **Case:**

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A construction worker suffered serious head injury when he was struck by a falling tool.

### **Accident Detail:**

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The injured worker, a laborer assigned to perform housekeeping in a new high-rise building under construction, was on the 3rd floor sweeping up construction debris.

While sweeping, he was struck in the head by a cordless drill that had fallen through a floor opening by a worker framing the floor above. The opening, cut to provide access for mechanical ductwork was protected by guardrails but did not have a toe board installed.

The worker framing the floor above allegedly set his drill down to position materials when he inadvertently kicked his drill which fell through the opening to the floor below.

### **Reconstructive Safety Evaluation:**

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- 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 there were many openings throughout the building that although had top and mid-rails in place for fall protection, did not in all cases have toe boards for falling object protection. The injured laborer was also not wearing his hard hat.

**Preventive Safety Measures Include:**

- Workers should be 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.
- Ensure employees working in areas where there is a possible danger of head injury from impact or from falling or flying objects or from electrical shock or burns are provided with and protected by protective helmets.
- Because a potential for head injuries exists on most construction projects from one source or another, a policy should be adopted that requires 100% use of hard hats by all employees at all times. This policy must be enforced.
- Where there is the potential for tools, materials or equipment to fall to a lower level, adequate protection must be installed to protect persons below from being struck. Examples are; toe boards, guardrails with panels or screens, canopies or by storing the materials, equipment or tools away from edges.

**Attendance Roster**

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**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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