

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:

October 2008

Accident Type:

Scaffold Collapse Accident – Improperly Tagged For Service

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2), 1926.451(f)(3), & (f)(4), 1926.454

Case:

Two workers were seriously injured when the scaffold on which they were working collapsed.

Accident Detail:

The workers, employed by a masonry contractor, were hired to restore the brick facade of a building. A four-tier frame scaffold was erected along the length of the building. Each day the Foreman would inspect the scaffold and use a tag system to show that it was safe to be used. Green indicated a “Safe” condition while red indicated an “Unsafe” one.

On the day before the incident, a wind and rain storm had passed through the area damaging the scaffold. When the foreman arrived to inspect and noticed the damage, he quickly returned to the company’s storage yard to pick up replacement components to repair the scaffold.

When the two workers arrived, they did not see the foreman but saw the tag showing that it was safe for use. So as not to get behind on the days work, they climbed the scaffold to begin work before the foreman had returned. As they climbed to the third tier, the scaffold gave way and collapsed.

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?

