# CSI Country Wide Case Study Safety Strategy Discussion

# **Construction Safety Investigator**

## Instructions

# CHUBB

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:

June 2007

## Accident Type:

Aerial Lift Accident - Caught Between

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

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2), 1926.453(b)(2)(ii), 1926.453(b(2)(iv), 1926.454, Mfr. Operators Manual and Safe Work Procedures

#### Case:

A 28 year-old electrician was killed when he was crushed between and aerial lift's controls and overhead mechanical systems.

# Accident Detail:

The worker was employed by an electrical contractor hired to install electrical services in a new high rise building. The electrician was assigned to install wiring for the fire protection systems in a below ground level. The electrician was working alone at the time and no others witnessed the incident.

When the electrician was found, he was found trapped between the upper controls in the boom platform of the aerial lift and the sprinkler system installed on the ceiling. The boom lift's platform structure was bent out of shape by the upward crushing force of the impact.

Workers attempted rescue by lowering the boom and platform using the lifts lower controls but when emergency responders arrived, the electrician was already deceased.

## **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 the operator was not trained in the lift he was operating by hisemployer and according to coworkers, appeared to be unfamiliar with the lift's operating controls. The incident occurred as he allegedly attempted to travel with the platform in an elevated position and when maneuvering the platform, may have inadvertently raised the boom up, pinning himself between the platform controls and sprinkler system.

#### **Preventive Safety Measures Include:**

- All operations are preplanned using a Job Safety Task Analysis (JSTA) to ensure potential safety hazards associated with an operation are identified and appropriate steps are taken to eliminate or control them.
- 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.
- Workers assigned to operate Aerial Lifts are properly trained in the specific lift they are to operate. Retraining should be conducted if the employee lacks the skill and understanding needed for safe work.
- Worker should not be allowed to work alone. When working alone there is no one to assist if employees become injured.
- Company policy should dictate and employees should be instructed to report any unsafe conditions such as other coworkers who appear not to understand safety procedures or policies or how to safely operate equipment.

#### Attendance Roster

Reference: This case was reported in the NIOSH Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program, Report #2005MI065.

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