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: October 6, 2009

Accident Type: Crane Accident - Equipment Maintenance

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2), Mfr. Safe Work Procedures for Equipment Maintenance

Case:

A crane oiler received a serious hand injury while lubricating the boom's wire rope.

Accident Detail:

The crane oiler was performing routine maintenance on the crane by "hands-on" pouring of lubrication onto a crane's, boom elevating wire rope. This task is performed while the crane's boom is raised and lowered up and down.

The oiler had completed lubricating the wire rope while the boom was lowered down and was preparing to begin oiling the rope while it was being raised when the oiler's glove and oil rag were caught and pulled into and between the close clearance of the guide sheave and dereeve bar.

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 although this means of oiling the wire rope is accepted industry practice, it is expected that the oiler's glove hand and rag would be placed on the moving wire rope on the "out run" side of the sheave. The oiler was allegedly on the correct side of the guide sheave when booming down but failed to reposition himself when booming up.

Preventive Safety Measures Include:

- All operations should be 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.
- Hands-on lubrication of moving wire rope is always dangerous and subject to impalement by broken wires or injury due to pinch points. Because of these reasons, hands-on lubrication should only be performed on stationary wire rope.
- Lubrication of moving wire rope should always be performed using "hands-off" techniques such as using sprays and clamp-on lubricating baths.

Attendance Roster

Reference: This case was reported in the "Just in Time Lessons Learned Summary" WCH-OE Tracking # 2009-11-11, dated 10/15/09.

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