

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:

June, 1990

Accident Type:

Crane Accident - Stability

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

1926.550 (a)(1) and 1926.550 (a)(5)

Case:

A veteran licensed crane operator was running a 40-ton cherry picker on a bridge deck when the crane overturned, fell off the bridge to the ground below, resulting in the death of the operator. Due to the crane's final resting spot across active railroad tracks, major morning railroad service was suspended.

Accident Detail:

A general contractor (GC) was contracted to rebuild an existing bridge structure that carried vehicles over a computer rail road line leading into New York City's Penn Station.

A 40-ton cherry picker operated by a seasoned crane operator was situated on the deck of the bridge utilized to service material to workers below working on the construction of the bridge's piers and associated work.

At the time of the accident, a man-lift, which was needed to be lowered from the bridge deck down to the work area below the bridge and adjacent to the railroad, was rigged to the crane. The operator proceeded to boom up with the load (man-lift) and began to swing the load (man-lift) over its front left outrigger when the load broke free causing the crane to overturn landing at the bottom of the bridge pier.

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?

