

# 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:

July 2007

### Accident Type:

Excavation Accident - Hazardous Atmosphere

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

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2), 1926.650, 1926.651(g), 1926.651(k)

### Case:

---

After entering an excavation, a construction worker was found dead.

### Accident Detail:

---

The worker was employed by a contractor hired to excavate and replace/re-route a section of storm water drainage pipe and structures as part of a highway project.

The work location was initially excavated the previous afternoon in preparation for the following day's activities. The following morning, a worker who showed up at the site before the others in the crew, allegedly decided to enter the excavation and begin exposing the pipe, prepping it for the day's work, rather than wait for the remainder of the crew to arrive.

When the others arrived, they noticed the worker's (deceased) truck at the location but he was not in it. A coworker walked over and looked into the trench where he saw the worker lying unconscious inside the section of exposed pipe. They called to him but there was no response. The foreman instructed the men to stay out of the excavation as he called 911 for emergency personnel. Upon inspection, the worker was dead at the scene.

### 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?

