

# CSI Country Wide Case Study Safety Strategy Discussion

## Construction Safety Investigator

CHUBB®

### Instructions

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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:

August 2008

### Accident Type:

Excavation Accident - Utility Strike

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

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

### Case:

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Two construction workers were seriously injured when an underground gas line was struck while excavating.

### Accident Detail:

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The workers were employed by a site contractor hired to install a new storm water drainage system in an area where a new building and parking lot were to be constructed.

The excavation crew had begun excavating in locations where the new system would be located. As they excavated, they would place and connect the new drainage structures and pipe and continue on until completed.

At the time of the incident, the two workers were working in the previously excavated section of the trench. As the operator began to excavate further to place another section of pipe, he unknowingly struck a buried gas line. The pipe was damaged by the machine, but not exposed as it began to leak. As the operator maneuvered the excavator to continue with the task, he again struck the line which ignited the gas trapped in the surrounding soil.

Both workers in the trench received burns as a result of the initial gas ignition but managed to climb out of the excavation and call for emergency assistance.

### Reconstructive Safety Evaluation:

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- 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?

