CSI Country Wide Case Study Safety Strategy Discussion

Construction Safety Investigator

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: September 2009

Accident Type: Fall Accident - From Ladder

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include: 29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2)

Case:

While working from a ladder, a 49 year-old electrician fell to his death.

Accident Detail:

The deceased was a longtime veteran electrician working for a contractor hired to upgrade electrical fixtures and other items in a building being renovated.

Just prior to the incident, the electrician was working with another employee installing electrical cable for the back up power source. During the installation, they found that they needed additional parts to make the connection. It was expected to take approximately 20 to 30 minutes before the needed components would arrive.

While they waited, the now deceased electrician decided to begin installing lighting fixtures in another area of the building. In order to reach a new fixture in a location over a stairwell, the electrician apparently positioned a step ladder in this area. The position of the step ladder placed him higher than the top rail of the stairway guardrails. Investigators believe the electrician lost his footing while leaning too far to reach the fixture, and he fell over the rail, falling approximately 25 feet.

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:

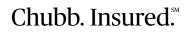
The investigation revealed that the worker took it upon himself to go to the new work location. Neither worker was instructed to work in the stairwell location on that day, no preplanning was completed for that operation nor was appropriate equipment available to safely reach and install the stairwell fixtures.

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 are 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.
- When working from ladders that place the worker above or adjacent to guardrail systems, where there is the potential for the worker to fall over the guardrails, additional fall protection measures should be implemented.

Attendance Roster

Reference: This case is fictitious, and any resemblance to any persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental. However, the type of accident described in this case summary happens all too often on construction sites.



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