

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:

September 2006

Accident Type:

Residential Fall Protection Accident - Fall Through Floor

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.21(b) (2), 29 CFR 1926.500 Subpart M, 29 CFR 1926.501 (b), 29 CFR 1926.502, 29CFR 1926.32, 29 CFR 1926.503, OSHA [1999]. STD 3-0.1A

Case:

Laborer (the victim) was fatally injured when he fell through a floor opening to a concrete floor below.

Accident Detail:

The victim was working from the second floor of a two-story, single-family home under construction where he and other workers had completed most, but not all, of the subfloor (plywood sheathing secured over floor joists) on previous workdays.

They had left a floor area open in an attic space where a walk-in closet was to be constructed later. At the end of the shift, the victim's lead worker asked two workers to complete the second story subfloor in the attic space. A co-worker joined the victim and together, they cut two sheets of plywood sheathing and placed them over the joists in the open area in the attic space. The co-worker reported that he was looking down at the sheets of unsecured plywood sheathing, trying to make the pieces fit into an opening that was not square, and when he looked up the victim was gone. The victim had apparently stepped onto a piece of the unsecured plywood sheathing that covered part of the floor opening, and when the plywood sheathing pivoted on the floor joist, he fell through the opening.

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?

