

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:

March 2008

Accident Type:

Mechanized Equipment - Overturned

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2), 29 CFR 1910.147, Aerial Lift Manufacture's Operating Manual

Case:

A 35 year-old equipment operator was injured when the excavator she was operating overturned and fell into a canal.

Accident Detail:

The injured employee was operating a tracked excavator and was assigned to clean out debris in the water along side of a canal retaining wall, in preparation for its reconstruction.

The excavator was set up parallel to the canal wall, with the operator reaching the boom arm over the side of the machine and down to pick and remove the debris. While using the excavator to remove the debris, the operator swung the excavator's boom arm around to the rear of the machine to drop the debris into to a pile when the machine began to tip.

The operator tried to stop the machine from tipping by moving the boom arm back but it was too late. The machine flipped over, landing in the canal, with the operator inside the cab.

As the as soon as the excavator flipped, coworkers responded by jumping into the water to rescue the operator. The operator was wearing her seatbelt and received a broken arm and shoulder due to the impact. The excavator was severely damaged resulting in a total loss.

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?

