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:

April 2008

Accident Type:

Powered Industrial Truck Accident -Explosion

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2), 1910.178, 1926.602(d)

Case:

A worker was killed when the forklift truck he was operating set off an explosion.

Accident Detail:

The worker was involved in debris removal for construction operations at an Ethanol production facility. He was tasked with removing containers filled with garbage and other debris generated during a series of construction renovations and upgrades to the facility.

With a loaded debris container on the truck, the operator was traveling to the designated area where the debris would be stored until it was transported off site. Along the way to the debris storage location, the operator drove out of the designated path of travel for this type of fork truck (Type G) and passed the Ethanol storage area (Class I location).

While traveling past a series of Ethanol fuel storage tanks, a spark was generated by the fork truck which set off an explosion at one of the tanks killing the operator.

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 fork truck being operated was a Type G (gasoline powered) and not approved for use in or around Class I (alcohol based materials) locations. The type G truck was only to be operated on paths within the facility area which were clearly marked and designated.

Preventive Safety Measures Include:

- All operations are to be 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 assigned to operate Powered Industrial Trucks must be trained in the specific type they are assigned to operate and be made aware of designated paths of travel within or around the facility.
- Powered Industrial Trucks are only operated in designated locations dependent on their Type and potential for explosion within a designated operating area.

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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