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:

June 2008

Accident Type:

Stairway Accident - Temporary Access

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2), 1926.1051(a), 1926.1052

Case:

A construction worker was injured when he fell from improper access to a storage unit.

Accident Detail:

The injured worker was a laborer who worked for a street and road contractor. The laborer was assigned to maintaining the temporary traffic control devices for the lane closers in place at the time. The contractor had a semi-trailer that was parked at the site and was being used for storage of the roadway devices, signs and other materials.

At the time of the incident, the laborer needed to access the trailer to get replacement traffic cones for several that were damaged over the weekend. He climbed up the temporary access to the trailer doors and when he attempted to step up into the trailer, the access collapsed and the laborer fell to the ground, breaking his arm and injuring his hip.

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?

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Accident Scene Conclusion:

The investigation revealed that the temporary stairway access to the storage trailer was constructed improperly by persons not trained in the requirements for temporary stairs. There were no railings on the stairs, the stair structure was inadequately braced and there was no platform provided at the top of the stairs to allow for the trailer door to open safely. The temporary stairs were set on the ground, which had settled causing the stairs to be out of level and unstable.

Preventive Safety Measures Include:

- All operations are pre-planned 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 should be trained in the hazards of the work they are to perform, as well as the personal protective equipment and safe work procedures necessary to perform their assigned tasks.
- Ensure that where temporary stairs are provided for access, they are constructed properly by trained persons who understand the construction requirements.
- Access points, whether stairs or ladders, are routinely inspected and repaired or replaced as necessary to maintain safe access for employees.

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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