

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:

Summer 2002

Accident Type:

Struck By Accident - Resurfacing Equipment

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) 2003 Edition, with revisions 1 and 2, 1926.20(a) through (f), 1926.21 (b)(1), (2), (4), 1926.100(a)

Accident Detail:

The construction worker was crushed while making adjustments to a roadway resurfacing machine on a straight and level portion of street. The chip spreading machine was pulling a tandem axle dump truck.

While the equipment was in operation, the side-gate operator (victim) got off the rock-chip spreading machine and went into an adjacent wooded area. He returned to his work station at the front right of the chip spreader and began adjusting the gate levers. Subsequently, he fell in front of the chip spreading machine and was run over first by the chip spreader and then by the left rear axle of the dump truck, at which time the dump truck became uncoupled from the chip spreader's hitch.

The driver got out of his truck to investigate. He found the victim lying between the first and second sets of duals on the driver's side rear axles and moved the truck forward. The victim died at the scene from severe head and neck injuries.

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: a witness stated a mulberry tree was nearby and that the victim was seen eating berries one second, then under the machine the next. Neither the primary operator nor the dump truck driver saw the victim fall. The chip spreading machine was found to be in normal operating condition with one section of the front gate plugged by “dirty rock.”

The company did not have comprehensive written safety programs or policies in place at the time of this incident. The company did not require a pre-employment physical or drug testing of its employees. No orange-colored safety gear or hard hats were in use at this worksite at the time of the incident.

Preventive Safety Measures Include:

- Employees must be instructed in the recognition and avoidance of unsafe work conditions and applicable regulations associated with their work environment to control or eliminate any hazards or other exposures to illness or injury.
- When two people are required to simultaneously perform operational tasks their work must be coordinated, which requires effective communication.
- A Job Safety Task Analysis (JSTA) should be written and communicated for each operation.
- When working in a work zone and/or around heavy equipment and vehicles, provide and ensure that employees wear appropriate personal protective equipment, including high visibility clothing and appropriate Personal Protective Equipment such as hard hats.

Attendance Roster

Reference: This case was reported in the NIOSH Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program, New York Case Report 07NY080.

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