

# CSI Country Wide Case Study

## Safety Strategy Discussion

### Construction Safety Investigator

CHUBB

#### **Instructions:**

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The objective of this tool is to provide field supervisors with information to proactively engage workers and discuss safety-related concerns 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 Date:**

2019

#### **Accident Type:**

Struck by Pressurized Hose

#### **Relevant Laws, Rules, and Codes May Include:**

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1); 1926.21(b)(2); Vehicle Operators Manual;  
Water Fill Sequence per manual for specific water source

#### **Case:**

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Water Truck Operator – Struck By

#### **Accident Detail:**

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A 67-year-old male water truck operator, working on a highway reconstruction project, sustained severe head injuries when a pressurized water hose burst, knocking him to the ground. He died two days later from his injury, which according to medical records was due to a skull fracture with intracranial bleeding.

The victim was performing dust control by spraying water at the project using the contractor's water truck. When the water in the truck was empty, he would normally refill it at the designated hydrant. However, because the groundwater supply was low, the normal hydrant used was not available.

Arrangements were made with a neighboring business to use their water system, which included a water storage tank supplying water at a higher pressure than the local water supply.

The normal procedure was to connect the hose (provided with the water truck) to the water tank hydrant outlet ball valve, then to the inlet ball valve on the truck. Once the hose was secured in place, the ball valve on the truck was to be opened first, followed by the ball valve on the hydrant. Water would then flow from the tank to the truck under a pressure that varied from 125 -140 psi.

The victim was an experienced employee and had performed water transfers safely on many other occasions; however, this type of water transfer was not from a typical source.

