CSI Country Wide Case Study Safety Strategy Discussion

Construction Safety Investigator

CHUBB®

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 2009

Accident Type:
Impalement Accident- Rebar

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:
29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.20(b)(2), 1926.21(b)(2), 1926.701(b)

Case:

A 28 year-old electrician was killed after he fell off a ladder and landed on unprotected rebar.

Accident Detail:

The electrician was working for a contractor which was hired to perform electrical work in a new building. At the time of the incident, the foundation walls were underway. Along the concrete floor slab were vertical sections of rebar, which were cast into the slab to be used to tie-in and support the wall sections as they are formed and poured.

The electrical crew was in the process of placing and securing conduit inside of the rebar wall cages in preparation for the concrete wall pour. As the conduit was raised up into the rebar cage, the electricians were using step ladders to elevate themselves so they could reach the upper sections to tie them in.

While working from the step ladder, the electrician (deceased), lost his balance and fell off. When he fell, he landed onto a row of vertical rebar cast into the floor slab, impaling him through the upper chest and neck.

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 there were many areas where exposed rebar was not protected by approved caps or other impalement protection systems. The use of impalement protection on this project was intermittent and not consistent throughout the site.

Preventive Safety Measures Include:

- All operations are 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 should be trained in the hazards of the work they are to perform, the personal protective equipment and safe work procedures necessary to perform their assigned tasks.
- All protruding reinforcing steel onto and into which employees could fall should be guarded to eliminate the hazard of impalement. Examples are the use of approved rebar caps, protective systems or the rebar is bent over to eliminate the hazard.

Attendance Roster

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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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