

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 2009

Accident Type:

Hand and Power Tool Accident - Chainsaw

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2), Manufacturer's recommendations and safe operating procedures

Case:

A worker was killed when he was struck in the neck by the kickback of the chainsaw he was using.

Accident Detail:

Two workers were assigned to clear trees on a small section of a property as part of a site clearing operation for a new warehouse facility. On the morning of the accident, the workers arrived at the site and parked their truck and chipping machine near the tree where they were to begin work.

At the start of the job, the worker (deceased) used a harness and climbed the tree he was to take down first. Using a chainsaw, he began cutting branches down while his coworker stayed below to feed them into the chipper.

While cutting the branches up in the tree, it is assumed that the chainsaw may have hit another branch, which caused it to kick back and go out of control, hitting him in the neck and severing a major artery.

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?

