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:

November 2009

Accident Type:

Hand and Power Tool Accident - Portable Saw

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29 CFR 1926.21(b)(2), 29 CFR 1926 - Subpart I

Case:

A worker suffered serious lacerations due to the accidental activation of a portable saw.

Accident Detail:

Two workers at a tank treatment plant were working from a scissor lift. To perform their task, they were using a porta-band saw. One of the workers needed the saw and asked the other to hand it to him. During the hand-off, one worker lost grip of the tool and it began to slip from his grasp. In addition, the other worker receiving the saw could not get a good grip on it.

In an attempt to catch and get a better grip on the saw, the worker receiving the saw attempted to hoist it to his shoulder. When he did so, his finger contacted the saw's trigger, turning it on and causing the blade to rotate. The worker's glove and hand were then pulled into and against rear guide and blade, which then cut through his hand and two fingers.

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?

1



Accident Scene Conclusion:

The investigation revealed that the saw's safety switch does not prevent the trigger from being activated when extra pressure is applied to it, that communication between workers when passing tools was not thorough and that the saw's safety switch was engaged during the handoff. Further investigation determined that when enough pressure is applied to the trigger and the trigger locking mechanism is engaged, the saw could activate.

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, in addition to personal protective equipment and safe work procedures necessary to perform their assigned tasks.
- Workers are trained in the equipment and tools they are required to use, including the proper placement of hands when handling or operating tools.
- Equipment and tools are de -energized prior to passing or handing them off to other workers.

Attendance Roster	

 $Reference: This \ case \ was \ reported \ in \ a \ DOE \ ``Lessons \ Learned'' \ Report, \ WCHOE \ Tracking \ \#2009-12-10.$

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3

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