# 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:

April 2008

### **Accident Type:**

Personal Protective Equipment - Concrete Burns

## Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2), 1926.95(a)

#### Case:

During a concrete bridge deck pour, four construction workers suffered concrete burns on their hands and feet.

# **Accident Detail:**

The workers were part of a concrete crew, which at the time of the incident, was performing the placement, vibrating and finishing of the deck pour.

About halfway through the pour, the four workers involved in the placement of the concrete and vibrating began to complain of irritation on their hands and feet. The workers continued their tasks, completing the pour first and then left the deck area to remove their gloves and boots. When the workers removed the gloves and boots, they found that they had severe irritation and redness. After a medical evaluation, this turned out to be caustic burns from the concrete.

# **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 the employer provided rubber gloves and boots for the workers, however, they were not required by the employer to be worn. Workers utilized the gloves and over boots, however, were not instructed how to wear them properly. As a result, they did not take steps necessary to keep wet concrete from entering the gloves and boots during the pour.

#### **Preventive Safety Measures Include:**

- Workers are 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.
- Employers should provide and require the use of proper well-fitting gloves and waterproof boots/over boots for employees who may come into contact with wet Portland cement.
- Wash hands before putting on gloves and every time they are removed. Hand should be dried with a clean cloth or paper towel before putting on gloves.
- Protect arms and hands and lower legs and feet by wearing long sleeve shirts with sleeves duct-taped to the gloves and long pants tucked in and duct-taped to the boots to prevent wet cement from getting inside them.
- Clean reusable gloves and boots after use, keep the insides clean and dry or throw out heavily contaminated or worn-out gloves and boots.

Attendance Roster	

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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