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 2007

Accident Type:

Blasting Accident - Flying Debris

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2), 1926.900(h) & (i), 1926.905(i), 1926.909(a), (b) & (e)

Case:

One worker was killed and another was injured when they were struck by flying rock.

Accident Detail:

The deceased worker was one of two men performing maintenance on equipment used during strip mining operations. The two men had arrived at the location where the equipment was parked and began to perform their maintenance tasks.

While they were performing the equipment maintenance, blasters nearby prepared for the next blast as part of the quarry operation. A short time later the blast was carried out. Debris from the blast was sent flying through the air toward and striking the two maintenance workers. One worker was struck in the head, suffering fatal injuries and the other suffered only minor injuries.

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 two shots fired, both at the same time and less than 100 feet apart from each other. The blast danger area was not inspected prior to the blast taking place to ensure all unauthorized persons were out of the danger area and it appears no audible warning signals were given prior to the blast taking place.

Preventive Safety Measures Include:

- 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.
- Where there is the potential for damage to structures or employees, the blaster shall take steps necessary to delay, confine or protect the blast with mats or other methods to control the throw of fragments and preventing injury.
- Preparers/Blasters shall use every reasonable precaution to ensure employee safety through but not limited to visual and audible warning signals, flags or barricades.
- No activities other then what is required for the blasting operation shall be permitted in the blasting area.
- Before the blast takes place, a loud warning signal shall be given by the Blaster in Charge who has made certain all employees, vehicles and equipment are at a safe distance or under sufficient cover.

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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