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:

May 15, 2009

Accident Type:

Electrical Accident - Arc Flash

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2), 1926.400, 1926.403(b)(1)(i) - (vii), 1926.416, NFPA 70-E

Case:

Three electricians were working in an energy facility and were attempting to remove a 480 KV breaker when an electrical arc flash occurred, severely injuring all three workers.

Accident Detail:

On the day of the incident, the workers were tasked with performing maintenance on electrical switchgear. While the contractor was obtaining information related to the equipment to be worked on, the three workers allegedly began their task before they were permitted to do so.

When they attempted to remove the 480KV breaker, it flashed over, causing severe burns to all three workers.

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 the three workers did not have permission to begin the work. They did not have a valid work permit on hand to perform the operation and none of the three workers had the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the task they attempted.

Preventive Safety Measures Include:

- All operations are be preplanned using a Job Safety Task Analysis 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 needed and the safe work procedures necessary to perform their assigned tasks.
- Only properly trained, certified and/or qualified workers are authorized to perform work on electrical installations, components and systems.
- All workers are provided with and required to use personal protective equipment specifically designed for working on or around electrical systems, installations and components and appropriate for the type of work/voltages involved in the task.

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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