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 2008

Accident Type:

Elevated Work Platform Accident - Forklift Attachment

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2), Equipment Mfr. Safe Operating Instructions and OSHA Standard Interpretation Letter dated 11/27/2001 - Applicable standards to lifting personnel on a platform supported by a rough-terrain forklift

Case:

A construction worker was killed when the forklift from which he was working tipped over.

Accident Detail:

The worker (deceased) was working on the exterior of a new building from a manufactured work platform attachment, designed for and mounted to the forks of a rough terrain forklift. At the time of the incident, he was working at a height of approximately 35 feet.

The forklift was positioned at the building's face with the work platform attachment directly

up against the structure. The worker had finished what was needed at that location, so the forklift operator backed up the machine and began to reposition it in another location against the same building.

As he maneuvered the machine, he drove over a soft sandy spot which caused the lift to sink under that tire and ultimately tip over. The worker was killed when he fell out of the work platform and was crushed by the forklift.

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 forklift and attachment were compatible and the work platform was designed to be used as it was attached. The forklift was relocated with the work platform elevated and the worker still inside. The location where the forklift and other equipment was being operated had not been graded, compacted or otherwise prepared to provide a firm and proper base on which to operate.

Preventive Safety Measures Include:

- All operations are preplanned 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.
- Those tasked with working in forklift mounted elevated work platforms such as in this case are trained in the fall hazards associated with the task to be performed, provided with and trained on appropriate fall protection equipment where required.
- Ensure locations where equipment or machinery is to be driven or otherwise operated is properly prepared. This may include, grading to level, filling of holes and soft/wet locations, and compaction.
- The platform for elevating personnel must not extend more than 10 inches beyond the wheelbase of the machine in use.
- Before moving a forklift mounted working platform, the boom and platform are lowered to the ground and worker is removed
 until the machine is positioned at the work location.

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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