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:

Unknown

Accident Type:

Fall Accident - From Excavator Bucket

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29 CFR 1926.652, 29 CFR 1926.21 (b)(2)

Case:

A 68 year-old plumber working on a pipe crew fell from an excavator bucket resulting in his death.

Accident Detail:

Two plumbers were working in a trench. To exit the trench, they would climb into the bucket of the excavator and be hoisted to the street level.

As the employees were being hoisted, the excavator operator started to swing the bucket. As he did, the bucket jerked, causing one employee to fall approximately 14 feet, striking his head on the pipe in the trench.

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 indicated this incident was caused by improper work practices. The workers used excavation equipment for egress rather then a proper means such as a ladder or ramp.

Preventive Safety Measures Include:

- · A work rule prohibiting employees from riding in the bucket of an excavator should be effectively communicated and enforced.
- Employees must be instructed in the recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions and the regulations applicable to their work environment to control or eliminate any hazards or other exposures to illness or injury.
- When employees are required to be in trenches four feet deep or more, an adequate means of egress such as a ladder or steps shall be provided.

Attendance Roster		

Reference: This case was reported in OSHA - Fatal facts Accident Summary #32.

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