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:

July 2008

Accident Type:

Fall Accident - Loading Dock

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), (b)(1) & (2), 1926.21(b)(2), 1926.25(b)

Case:

A 49 year-old laborer was seriously injured when he fell backwards off a loading dock platform.

Accident Detail:

The injured man was a laborer working for a general contractor at a 21-story new building construction project.

The laborer was working with two others to remove debris carts from the different floors and position them on the loading dock adjacent to the personnel hoist. The carts would then be dumped into waste management trucks and hauled away. The loading dock was approximately $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet above the street below.

At the time of the incident, the laborer had pushed a debris cart off of the hoist car, and was positioning it next to another, when he stepped backwards and fell off of the loading dock onto the street below, striking his head.

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?

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Accident Scene Conclusion:

The investigation revealed that the loading dock/hoist platform did not have guardrails installed across its unprotected edge. The loading dock was used to provide a platform for workers and materials waiting to be hoisted to higher floors as well as to store debris carts until they were emptied and returned to the construction floors.

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.
- 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.
- Unprotected sides and edges of loading and unloading areas (even those <6 feet to lower levels) should be protected by guardrails to prevent workers from inadvertently falling to the lower level.
- Loading and unloading areas for materials and/or personnel should be sufficient in size so not to crowd or cause an unsafe condition at platform/surface perimeters.

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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