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 2009

Accident Type:

Fall Accident - Skylight

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2), 1926.501(a)(2), 1926.501(b)(4)(i), (ii) and (iii), 1926.502, 1926.503, Skylight Mfr's installation and safety instructions

Case:

A 28 year-old construction worker was severely injured when he fell through a roof on which he was working.

Accident Detail:

The worker was employed by a roofing contractor who at the time was in the process of installing fiberglass skylights.

At the time of the incident, the worker had installed a skylight unit and was completing the unit's installation. At some point during the installation, the worker allegedly leaned onto the skylight dome, which broke under the worker's weight, and he fell through the skylight to the floor below.

Emergency services responded and airlifted the injured worker to the hospital.

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 the worker did not have appropriate fall protection in place when installing the units into the roof openings. The skylight being installed was not designed to carry the weight of the worker and broke under the load. Training program was not in place that discussed the potential hazards with skylights or fall protection practices that should be used during skylight installation.

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. This includes the manufacturer's installation and safety instructions.
- Ensure that walking and working surfaces (including skylights) are properly protected so employees cannot fall through them. Use protective systems including hole covers, guardrails, personal fall arrest systems or other protective devises designed for the purpose.

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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