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:

March 2010

Accident Type:

Motor Carrier Accident - Unloading Flat Bed Truck

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2), 49 CFR section 393.100

Case:

A construction worker was killed when a section of pipe fell on him while unloading a truck.

Accident Detail:

A load of pipe was delivered on a flat bed truck for a force sewer project. It had arrived at the site and the driver, with the assistance of a site laborer, began unloading the pipe sections around 9:00 a.m.

The pipe sections were being off-loaded using nylon straps in a choker hitch and an all-terrain forklift. When the pipe originally was loaded onto the flat bed trailer, wooden wedges had been used to keep them stable and in place during transport. During the unloading process, these same wedges were re-used. As sections of pipe were hoisted from the truck, these wedges were put back in place to block the remaining pipe from moving.

During the unloading process, the laborer was standing along side the trailer while waiting for the forklift to return for the next section. As he stood there, apparently one or more of the wooden wedges either broke or came free, allowing a section of pipe to roll off the truck, knocking the laborer to the ground. A second section then followed, which landed on the laborer crushing him. Emergency personnel pronounced him dead at the scene.

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 laborer assisting the driver in unloading the truck had not been trained in this type of operation. It was assumed that he would simply assist the driver. The wooden blocks used and those inspected still blocking the remaining section of pipe on the truck, were found to be cracked, severely weathered and appeared to be cut out of scrap type lumber material.

Preventive Safety Measures Include:

- All operations are pre-planned 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 should be trained in the hazards of the work they are to perform, as well as the personal protective equipment and safe work procedures necessary to perform their assigned tasks.
- Drivers of trucks are trained in the requirements of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety
- Regulations that apply to, at a minimum, proper loading and securing procedures, before they are authorized to transport
 materials and/or equipment.
- Workers are not allowed to stand/work in locations where there is the potential to be struck by or caught between loaded or unloaded materials, equipment or vehicles.

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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