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 2007

Accident Type:

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Accident - Eye Injury

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2), 1926.102

Case:

A 22 year-old carpenter was injured after a nail flew into his eye.

Accident Detail:

The inured worker was a carpenter working for a residential framing contractor. At the time of the incident, he was nailing together sections of wall.

While nailing the sections together, the carpenter swung the hammer to begin driving a new nail when the nail flew back up into the workers face, impaling him in the right eye.

The worker then pulled the nail from his own eye before paramedics could arrive.

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 when driving the nail, the hammer likely did not strike the nail head straight on, which cased it to fly up into the worker's face. The carpenter was not wearing eye protection when the incident occurred. The framing contractor did not have a personal protective equipment (PPE) policy or require the workers to wear eye protection.

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 should be trained in the hazards of the work they are to perform, the personal protective equipment (PPE) and safe work procedures necessary to perform their assigned tasks.
- Employers should ensure workers involved in operations or who are working with machines where there is the potential for eye injury are provided with approved eye and face protection.
- To prevent eye and face injuries, a policy should be adopted that requires 100 percent use of eye protection by all employees.
- To prevent further damage to an injury site, employees should not attempt to remove an impaled object on their own. They should wait for emergency medical services or hospital staff to perform the medical procedure.

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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