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:

November 2010

Accident Type:

Roofing Accident - Falling Object

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.21(b) (2), 29 CFR 1926.554, OSHA Draft Proposed Health and Safety Program, Docket No. S&H-0027. www.osha.gov/dsg/topics/safetyhealth/nshp.html. Date accessed: May 17, 2011.Code of Federal Regulations

Case:

Roofer Struck in Head by Falling Bag of Rock

Accident Detail:

The roofer (victim) was part of a crew repairing the roof of a building by replacing a section of the roof that had been leaking. The bag, which was filled with roofing material being removed as part of the repair, weighing approximately 40 pounds, was being lowered from the roof to the ground using a portable manual rope pulley system. Prior to the incident, the workers had completed lowering two bags of gravel to the ground.

The bag free fell three and one half stories, striking the victim in the head. Two coworkers were positioned on the building's roof at the time of the incident. The victim was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead.

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 victim was standing on the ground when he was struck by a 40 pound bag loaded with gravel from the building's roof.
- Reportedly, after the second bag had been lowered to the ground, the victim walked over to a coffee shop to purchase coffee and snacks for the work crew. When returning from the coffee shop, the victim walked back to the rope pulley system's fall zone and bent over to place the coffee and snacks down.
- It is not known for sure, but speculated, that while the victim was bent over, he verbally informed the co-workers on the roof that he had returned and that the co-workers thought the victim was informing them that he was ready to continue the task. This prompted the co-workers to lift the gravel bag attached to the pulley's rope and drop it over the side of the building.

Preventive Safety Measures Include:

- Complete a Job Safety Task Analysis that includes scope of work, anticipated exposures and safety equipment and/or procedures needed to ensure the task is completed successfully and safely.
- Conduct a pre-work meeting to review the JSTA and ensure workers understand the task to be completed, any safe working procedures and have the necessary safety equipment.
- Ensure that only rope pulley systems with brakes are used for hoisting and lowering tasks.
- Develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) for using rope pulley systems that include voice and hand signals and barricading off the pulley's fall zone.
- Develop, implement, and enforce a comprehensive safety and health program and provide training, which includes hazard recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions, such as the hazards associated with using rope pulley systems.

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Reference: This case was reported in the NIOSH Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program.

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