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:

Winter 2008

Accident Type:

Scaffolding Accident - Unguarded Platform

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.21(b) (2), 29 CFR 1926.450, 1926.451(b), (f), and (g) and 1926.454. MI OSHA Safety Requirements.

Case:

Mason dies as a result of falling from unguarded working surface

Accident Detail:

The incident occurred during a brick repair operation at a building renovation site where the building wall being repaired was the exterior of a new building connected to the original.

Two workers raised a mobile, hydro scaffold up to 35ft after repositioning it for the next task.

The decedent was installing backing rod and his coworker was caulking. The two workers worked in a south to north direction, moving backwards on the work platform. It appears that while the decedent was bending over and walking backwards to install the backer rod, he stepped off the end of the unguarded work platform and fell 35ft to the concrete surface below.

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:

- Prior to moving the scaffold to its new position, the competent persons lightened the scaffold by removing scaffold planks and guardrails. All required planking and guardrails for the scaffold were present at the site but were not re-installed when the scaffold was repositioned.
- Guardrails were not installed on ends of the employees work platform.
- The work platform was not fully planked.
- There was no effective inspection of the Hydro Mobile scaffold completed prior to its use.

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 all scaffolds are not be erected, moved, dismantled, or altered, except under the supervision of a competent person.
- Employers should ensure that all required components of a scaffold are properly installed prior to employee use.
- Appropriate training is provided to workers engaged in tasks involving scaffolding to include the nature of electrical, fall, and falling object hazards and the correct procedures for them, proper use the scaffold, load capacities and the requirements of 29 CFR 1926 Subpart L.

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

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