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:

August 2009

Accident Type:

Work Zone Accident - Worker Struck in Closed Section of Road

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2), Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)

Case:

A construction worker was struck by a car traveling through a closed section of roadway.

Accident Detail:

The worker was part of a three-man crew performing construction operations on a section of highway that had been closed to traffic. The roadway in question was closed between two off/on ramps which lead to and from an adjacent highway.

At the time of the incident, the crew was preparing the closed section of roadway for grading, ahead of the paving operation.

While working along the shoulder, a car entered the closed section of roadway, traveled through the construction area striking one of the workers, seriously injuring him.

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 driver was late for work and felt he could shorten his route by driving through the section of closed roadway. It was determined that the highway contractor did have the closed section of roadway appropriately signed, delineated and protected according to the construction specifications and Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

Preventive Safety Measures:

- 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 and safe work procedures necessary to perform their assigned tasks.
- Ensure all work zones are set up and maintained, at a minimum, in accordance with the MUTCD, approved traffic control specifications and any local or state requirements.
- As this incident shows, even though the work zone may be properly planned for and constructed according to the MUTCD, it can not be taken for granted that motor vehicle drivers will still obey, or properly navigate through the work zone.
- Always be on the alert when working within a work zone.

Attendance Roster	

Reference: This case was reported in the NIOSH Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program, New York Case Report 07NY080.

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