

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:

April 2009

Accident Type:

Aerial Lift Accident – Caught Between

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2), 29 CFR 1910.147, Aerial Lift Manufacture's Operating Manual

Case:

A construction worker was killed when he was crushed between the boom arm and body of the Aerial lift he was operating.

Accident Detail:

The worker was employed by a contractor hired to form and pour concrete related to a highway bridge project. After completing several tasks, the deceased lowered the boom and exited the lift so he could clean concrete that had splattered onto the body of the lift.

As the worker was cleaning the body of the lift, he allegedly needed to access parts of the lift located between the boom and interior of the body. The worker raised the boom up to open the space and then placed himself between body and boom to access the harder to reach places.

At the time of the incident, another worker arrived and did not see the deceased worker in the lift. The other worker thought the lift was available for use and by using the exterior controls, began to lower the boom. As he lowered the boom, the victim's head was caught between the body and boom, killing the worker.

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 lift was not locked out and tagged out to prevent it from being operated while the worker was in the machine. The worker was not following company safety procedures related to cleaning the lift by climbing into areas of the lift that were known pinch points.

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 in addition to personal protective equipment and safe work procedures necessary to perform their assigned tasks.
- A Lockout/Tagout program is implemented and all workers are trained in the program.
- Employees are trained in the safe operation and maintenance of equipment and machinery they are tasked to operate as well as Lockout and Tagout procedures.

Attendance Roster

[illegible]

Reference: This case was reported in the NIOSH Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program, Report #2005MI065.

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