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 2008

Accident Type:

Hand and Power Tool Accident - Kickback

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2), 1926.3001926.302, Manufacturer's Operating Manual

Case:

A construction worker was seriously injured after being cut by the saw he was using.

Accident Detail:

The worker was working in a trench at a construction site, demolishing and removing an old concrete drainage structure in preparation of a new storm water drainage system.

Among other power tools, the injured worker was using a gasoline-powered chop saw to aid in cutting apart a concrete drainage structure that was the connection point for three steel corrugated storm water pipes.

After using other power tools to break apart the structure, the worker then used the chop saw to complete the cutting and removal of a section of pipe. While cutting into the box near one of the pipe sections, the worker found he was not able to access the box to make the full cut. To finish the cut, the worker kneeled down in the trench and began to cut again around the area of the pipe.

As he was cutting, the saw contacted the steel pipe and kicked back. As it did, the employee was unable to maintain a firm grip and the saw's cutting wheel struck him in the throat, severely injuring him.

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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 worker was trained in use of that saw, as well as the other power tools being used and had performed this type of operation in the past. In this instance, however, the worker felt he could better access the cutting location in a lower position and kneeled down to complete the cut. In changing to the kneeling position, the worker was no longer able to maintain proper hold or force on the saw to keep it firmly in place, maintain control, preventing it from kicking back.

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 are 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.
- Workers should be instructed to use power tools according to manufacturer's instructions and recommendations and not in such a manner that inhibits their ability to maintain control of the tool.

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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