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:

March 2009

Accident Type:

Rigging Accident - Equipment Failure

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2), 1926.251, 1926.750 - .761

Case:

A construction worker was killed while he was working on a military base access gate reconstruction project and was struck by a beam.

Accident Detail:

The worker was part of a crew tasked with erecting a new canopy on a new guardhouse as part the base's access gate reconstruction project.

During the process of setting a 65 foot long, 4,750 pound steel beam, winds suddenly flared causing the steel beam to shift on the supports structure and fall.

The workers, acting quickly to save the beam, re-rigged the beam to secure it from falling further and to set it back into position. Once rigged, the beam was being hoisted back into position, when a catastrophic failure of the straps used in the rigging occurred, resulting in the beam falling to the ground, striking and killing worker 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:

The investigation revealed that once the beam was initially set, it was not positively secured to the support structure. The straps used to rig the beam for hoisting, were not inspected and were found to be cut and frayed in several locations.

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, the personal protective equipment and safe work procedures necessary to perform their assigned tasks.
- Only trained and qualified workers are allowed to perform and oversee rigging operations.
- All rigging equipment and components are inspected regularly and according to manufacturer recommendations. If damaged or otherwise found to have discrepancies the equipment is taken out of service.

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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