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 2010

Accident Type:

Struck by- Caught between

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.21(b)(2), 29CRF 1926.602(a)(2), Equipment Operators Manuals, WAC 296-155-615, WAC 296-155-035, WAC 296-155-110

Case:

Skid-Steer Loader Operator Crushed Between Backhoe Attachment and Cab

Accident Detail:

An equipment operator was hired to perform work at a power company's substation. The victim and an employee of the contractor were loading equipment and tools to move to another job site. The victim's task was to load a skid-steer loader with a backhoe attachment on to an equipment trailer for transport.

As the victim moved the loader toward the trailer ramps, the backhoe attachment dragged on the ramps, preventing it from being loaded. The operator got down from the machine, connected the backhoe's hydraulic hoses and then got back into the cab. The operator stood and reached for the backhoe attachment operator's seat in front of him. At the same time, his hand hit a button which engaged the bucket and his left foot became stuck on the control that activated the backhoe attachment. The bucket then moved toward him, pinning him between the exterior seat and the cab frame.

The victim was seated in the cab with the safety restraint bar in the down position (it must be down to operate the machine). The victim was taken to a hospital where he died of blunt force trauma to the chest.

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:

- Per the report, the operator may have intended to use the bucket of the backhoe attachment to lift the loader's front end to prevent the attachment from dragging while moving up the ramp.
- The operator stood and reached for the backhoe attachment operator's seat in front of him. At the same time, his hand hit a button which engaged the bucket and his left foot became stuck on the control that activated the backhoe attachment. The bucket then moved toward him, pinning him between the exterior seat and the cab frame.
- The equipment should only be operated while seated with seatbelts fastened and restraint bar down.

Preventive Safety Measures Include:

- Equipment operators are trained and qualified for the equipment being operated and any attachments to be utilized.
- Use a spotter when loading equipment on to trailers if visibility is poor.
- Operate equipment only while seated with seatbelts fastened and restraint bar down.
- 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.

Attendance Roster	

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

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