

CSI Country Wide Case Study Safety Strategy Discussion

Construction Safety Investigator

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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:

July 24, 1989

Accident Type:

Fall Accident - Roof Opening

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

1926.21(b)(2), 29 CFR 1926.501(b)(4), 1926.502

Case:

An 18-year-old male laborer died after falling through a skylight opening 27 feet to a concrete floor.

Accident Detail:

The victim had been employed as a laborer for a roofing and metal fabrication contractor. The victim was part of a six-person crew assigned to move insulation boards from a storage area on one side of the main roof, over the penthouse roof, to the other side of the main roof where the boards were to be installed.

At the time of the incident, the penthouse roof contained 4 unguarded 10-foot-square openings, which were to be used for installing skylights.

Two members of the crew carried insulation boards from the storage area to the penthouse area. Two other crew members, including the victim, carried the boards to the opposite side of the penthouse where the remaining two crew members moved the boards to the work area. At some point during the task, the victim was walking backwards dragging insulation boards when he fell through the skylight opening.

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:

It was revealed that in this case, the prime contractor did not require the subcontractor to utilize fall protection measures (e.g., provide guarding for roof openings).

Neither the prime contractor nor the subcontractor took the necessary precaution—guarding the skylight opening. Employees were allowed to work in close proximity to unguarded skylight openings without adequate fall protection

Preventive Safety Measures Include:

- Use contract language that requires all subcontractors to preplan and identify how they intend to implement their fall protection program.
- Ensure proper training of personnel in the fall protection policy and procedures.
- All holes (including skylight openings) openings in the walking/working surface shall be protected by covers or guardrail systems erected around the holes or personal fall arrest systems

Attendance Roster

Reference: Reference: This case was reported in the NIOSH Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program, Report #1989-47.

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