

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.

