

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:

October 2008

Accident Type:

Aerial Lift Accident - Overhead Powerlines

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2), 1926.453, 1926.454

Case:

A worker was killed when he contacted overhead power lines while working in an Aerial lift.

Accident Detail:

Two construction workers involved in the renovation of a mid-rise apartment building were working in an elevated boom lift when they came into contact with a 4,800 volt overhead electrical line.

One of the workers was maneuvering the basket section into position to begin inspection of previously installed exterior flashing, when he raised the boom up under the powerline, making contact with the victim's head.

A second worker in the lift was also injured but was able to lower the lift and call for emergency services.

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 workers were not trained in the hazards of overhead power lines and therefore did not know safe working distances.

Preventive Safety Measures Include:

- All operations are preplanned using a Job Safety Task Analysis to ensure potential safety hazards associated with an operation are identified and appropriate steps are taken to eliminate or control them.
- Workers required to use Aerial Lifts are trained in the safe use and operation of the specific lift to be used, the hazards associated with the work to be performed, personal protective equipment, fall protection and other safe work procedures necessary to perform their assigned tasks.
- Any vehicle or mechanical equipment capable of having parts of its structure elevated near energized overhead lines shall be operated so that a minimum clearance of 10 feet is maintained; additional space or clearance may be necessary depending on the specific operation and voltage of the power lines.

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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