

CSI Country Wide Case Study Safety Strategy Discussion

Construction Safety Investigator

CHUBB®

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 2007

Accident Type:

Confined Space Accident - Industrial Welding

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.21(b)(6)(i) and (ii), 29CFR 1910.146

Case:

A 40 year-old welder was killed when he was asphyxiated inside a 24" pipe.

Accident Detail:

The welder was employed by a mechanical contractor, working on new construction at a petrochemical facility. He was assigned to a two-man crew, tasked with welding the joints on a 24" pipe.

Both men decided to split up and work separately, rather than work together as was directed by the foreman. The welder (deceased) completed his welds and called to the helper to come up from where he was working to assist him as he was planning to enter the 24" pipe.

When the helper arrived to assist, the welder was already in the pipe. Upon arrival, the helper called to the welder but received no response. He then called for assistance and fortunately did not attempt to enter the pipe to initiate a rescue.

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?

