

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:

Excavation and Trenching

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), (b)(1)&(2), 1926.21(b)(2), 1926.651, 1926.651(h), 1926.651(k), 1926.652

Case:

A 30 year-old worker was working in a trench when it collapsed, pinning him for hours.

Accident Detail:

The trench in question was located in the front of a building, which was part of an assisted living development. The worker's employer was hired to fix a leak in the building's sprinkler system.

The worker was repairing a water main related to the sprinkler in a 6 foot-deep trench when leaking water caused the soil and mud around him to collapse. The worker sank up to his waist and spent nearly five hours pinned. Initial attempts by coworkers to rescue him were unsuccessful.

When rescue crews responded, they were able to free the man.

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?

