

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:

Unknown

Accident Type:

Fall Accident - High-Rise Building

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

1926.500, 1926.501(a), 1926.501(b)(2), 1926.502 (a)(b)(c)(d), 1926.503

Case:

A 25 year-old male lather sustained fatal injuries when he fell off the leading edge of the 10th floor of a 20-story residential construction project.

Accident Detail:

A lather was preparing to install horizontal straps at the base of a reinforced concrete column, which was under construction. To begin his work, he went out to the column location, located at the perimeter of the floor, and therefore exposing himself to the leading edge of the floor slab.

No perimeter protection in the form of guardrails or safety nets was in place along the outer edge of the floor. Shoring legs to support the form work for the 11th floor deck were installed throughout the floor and at this particular location.

In the area where the fall occurred, the General Contractor inserted safety straps from above, which were used as an anchor point for workers in order to secure their fall arrest systems when working along the exposed leading edge. These safety straps were installed according to engineered plans and met specifications for fall protection standards.

At the time of the accident, the lather was not wearing any form of fall arrest system, such as a body harness and lanyard. It is not known what caused the lather to fall off the edge of the building. He landed on top of a sidewalk shed and was pronounced dead upon arrival at the hospital. This man was scheduled to be married a few weeks from the day of the accident.

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 lather’s work assignment resulted in potential fall exposures well in excess of 6 feet. The worker had received fall protection training and made aware of the hazards associated with his work activity by his union and was provided a personal fall arrest system (PFAS) by the contractor. For unknown reasons, the worker was not equipped with the PFAS at the time of the accident.

The Investigation indicated that had the worker been wearing his PFAS, there were engineered and approved safety straps in the work area to secure his lanyard to that would have afforded the appropriate fall protection.

Preventive Safety Measures Include:

- Job safety task analysis must be performed for each work operation to ensure exposures are identified, controls put in place to eliminate and/or control the exposure and necessary safety equipment available. Foreman must discuss and review the JSTA with all workers involved in the operation.
- Foreman must instruct and verify that proper personal protective equipment necessary for the work at hand is being utilized.
- Workers need to be instructed that they are responsible to work safely and utilize PFAS and PPE at all times.
- Every worker exposed to falls and provided PFAS must be trained in the use of the PFAS and the fall hazards associated with their activity. The training must be documented to verify completion.
- Workers must be reminded that if they observe a fellow worker exposed to falls or other hazards without that person utilizing proper PFAS or PPE, stop the worker and remind them of what they are doing wrong. “if you see something, say something”
- Hold people accountable for failure to comply with safety requirements and procedures.

Attendance Roster

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