

# CSI Country Wide Case Study Safety Strategy Discussion

## Construction Safety Investigator



### Instructions

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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:

May 2009

### Accident Type:

Fire Protection - Torch Cutting

### Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2), 1926.150, 1926.152(a)(1), 1926.352

### Case:

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A welder and laborer were severely burned when flammable liquids exploded in their work area.

### Accident Detail:

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The welder and laborer were working for a contractor, subcontracted to demolish a section of building. The section of building (storage room) to be partially demolished was also being used by the GC to store construction tools and other materials for the job.

Roof supports and trusses were shored up in front of the block wall to be removed so the two workers could pre-cut the steel trusses in preparation for the wall removal. The welder used a step ladder to access the trusses and an oxy/acetylene torch to perform the task. The laborer was assisting the welder with the operation.

As the welder began to cut the steel, hot slag was falling to the floor and being blown away from the cut by the force of the torch. Both workers were unaware that unmarked containers of gasoline were stored adjacent to where they were working. Slag from the torch cutting landed on and near the containers, causing them to ignite and explode, which burned both workers.

### Reconstructive Safety Evaluation:

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- 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?

