

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:

April 2010

Accident Type:

Material Handling Accident - Struck By Falling Load

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

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

Case:

A worker was seriously injured when pinned and crushed by a falling load.

Accident Detail:

Workers on a project were directed to relocate rebar no longer needed at one location to a designated lay down yard. An equipment operator and two workers utilized an all-terrain forklift to transport the rebar in two bundles.

Once the forklift was loaded and transported to the yard, the operator stopped in front of previously unloaded rebar. One of the workers acted as a flagman, signaling the operator to extend the forks over the rebar already at the location in position to be unloaded. With the forks extended, the worker (flagman) moved around the previously unloaded rebar to another location in front of but a short distance from the forklift's load. The worker (flagman) then signaled to the operator where to unload the rebar.

After signaling to the operator, the worker (flagman) moved toward the forklift to remove cribbing located on top of the load. As he reached for the cribbing, the operator began to unload the rebar by tilting the forks downward; this caused both rebar bundles to slide. When the worker saw the rebar sliding toward him, he attempted to back up, tripping on debris and falling backward to the ground. The first bundle of rebar then fell on the worker's legs, pinning and crushing them under the load, followed by the second bundle, which fell onto the previously unloaded rebar and the worker.

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?

