

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:

March 2010

Accident Type:

Motor Carrier Accident - Unloading Flat Bed Truck

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2), 49 CFR section 393.100

Case:

A construction worker was killed when a section of pipe fell on him while unloading a truck.

Accident Detail:

A load of pipe was delivered on a flat bed truck for a force sewer project. It had arrived at the site and the driver, with the assistance of a site laborer, began unloading the pipe sections around 9:00 a.m.

The pipe sections were being off- loaded using nylon straps in a choker hitch and an all-terrain forklift. When the pipe originally was loaded onto the flat bed trailer, wooden wedges had been used to keep them stable and in place during transport. During the unloading process, these same wedges were re-used. As sections of pipe were hoisted from the truck, these wedges were put back in place to block the remaining pipe from moving.

During the unloading process, the laborer was standing along side the trailer while waiting for the forklift to return for the next section. As he stood there, apparently one or more of the wooden wedges either broke or came free, allowing a section of pipe to roll off the truck, knocking the laborer to the ground. A second section then followed, which landed on the laborer crushing him. Emergency personnel pronounced him dead at the scene.

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?

