

CSI Country Wide Case Study Safety Strategy Discussion

Construction Safety Investigator

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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:

Scaffold Accident - Slip and Fall

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

1926.451 (b)(1), 1926.451 (b)(2)(ii), 1926.451 (e)(1), 1926.451 (g)(1), 1926.451 (a)(6)

Case:

A laborer was killed when he slipped and fell, head first, 20 feet to the ground below.

Accident Detail:

The laborer was working on the third tier level of a tubular welded frame scaffold. In between two end frames of the scaffold, a single scaffold plank was used to provide access from one side of the scaffold to the other. The scaffolding and planking was covered with snow and ice.

As the laborer walked across the scaffold plank he slipped and fell off the plank landing on the ground below, striking his head when hitting the ground.

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 scaffold plank was used as access by workers to reach from one scaffold to the other. There were no guardrails along the perimeter to protect workers from falling and only one plank was used as a walkway with the width of the platform no greater than 10 inches.

The laborer was not equipped with nor utilized any other means of personal fall arrest system when exposed to the unprotected sides of the scaffold in excess of 10 feet. In addition to the missing fall protection, the planking had a build up of snow and ice, which was not cleaned off causing the worker to slip, resulting in his fall to the ground below.

Preventive Safety Measures Include:

- Each scaffold platform, on all working levels, shall be fully planked or decked.
- Standard guardrails and toe boards must be installed on scaffolds in excess of 10 feet and access ladders or the equivalent must be provided to workers using scaffolds.
- Scaffolds shall be designed by a Qualified Person¹ and shall be constructed and loaded in accordance with that design.
- Scaffolds must be inspected on a regular basis by a Competent Person².
- Ice and snow must be cleared from the scaffold to eliminate slippery conditions as soon as possible.

Attendance Roster

Reference: This case was reported in OSHA - Fatal Facts Accident Summary #29.

¹ As required by OSHA
² As required by OSHA

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