

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:

Fall of 1999

Accident Type:

Caught Between Accident - Dump Truck

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29 CFR 1926.21(2)(b), 1926.601(b) (10), (11)

Case:

A 53 year-old construction worker was killed after he unloaded sand from a dump truck and was crushed between the dump body and frame of the truck.

Accident Detail:

The construction worker was killed after he unloaded sand from a dump truck. The victim partially raised the box of his dump truck and unloaded about 1/3 of the load of sand, which was wet and heavy.

Then while standing and leaning in from the passenger side of the truck, he manually tripped the hydraulic control lever to bring the box down. However, due to the weight of the wet sand and the low height of the box, it slammed down immediately and pinned the man to the frame of the truck.

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 investigation indicated that the action of leaning in, to manually trip the hydraulic control lever to bring the box down, was apparently a habit to save some time from walking around the truck to push the dump lever inside the truck cab.

However, this time, because of the heavy load of sand, and because the box was only partially raised, the truck box came down immediately pinning the man between the box and the frame of the dump truck.

Preventive Safety Measures Include:

- Workers should use proper machine controls rather than actuating machine functions at hazardous locations. Do not take short cuts.
- Ensure all equipment and vehicles are properly maintained and all control levers and locking devices are in proper working order to prevent accidental starting or tripping of mechanisms preventing accidental lowering of the body.
- Employers should train and supervise workers adequately to ensure that safe procedures are followed.

Attendance Roster

Reference: This case was reported in the NIOSH Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program, Report #99IA085.

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