

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:

March 2010

Accident Type:

Struck by- Caught between

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.21(b)(2), 29CFR 1926.602(a)(2), Equipment Operators Manuals, WAC 296-155-615, WAC 296-155-035, WAC 296-155-110

Case:

Skid-Steer Loader Operator Crushed Between Backhoe Attachment and Cab

Accident Detail:

An equipment operator was hired to perform work at a power company's substation. The victim and an employee of the contractor were loading equipment and tools to move to another job site. The victim's task was to load a skid-steer loader with a backhoe attachment on to an equipment trailer for transport.

As the victim moved the loader toward the trailer ramps, the backhoe attachment dragged on the ramps, preventing it from being loaded. The operator got down from the machine, connected the backhoe's hydraulic hoses and then got back into the cab. The operator stood and reached for the backhoe attachment operator's seat in front of him. At the same time, his hand hit a button which engaged the bucket and his left foot became stuck on the control that activated the backhoe attachment. The bucket then moved toward him, pinning him between the exterior seat and the cab frame.

The victim was seated in the cab with the safety restraint bar in the down position (it must be down to operate the machine). The victim was taken to a hospital where he died of blunt force trauma to the chest.

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?

