

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:

10/19/16

Accident Type:

Scaffold Platform Collapse

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1); 1926.21(b)(2); 29 CFR 1926.451(f)(1); 29 CFR 1926.451(a)(1)

Case:

Several people Injured When Climbing Scaffold Collapsed

Accident Detail:

Two climbing scaffolds collapsed with debris falling to the ground from the 48th floor of a high-rise residential building under construction. The loading platform was being used for moving materials, formwork tables, and equipment in and out of the building. The incident occurred while the pair of scaffolds were being repositioned from the 47th floor to the 48th floor of the building.

The platforms had been in use at the site for more than a year and had been raised previously using the hydraulic system or by crane when required by the manufacturer.

The distance between the two scaffold platforms was about 7 feet. The contractor responsible for the scaffolds placed approx. 16 purlins, approx. 20' 6" long, spanning two larger platforms, and also placed plywood over these purlins converting this space between the larger platforms into a deck. This arrangement allowed the contractor to carry the purlins between the floors and carry materials while climbing the platforms.

The contractor hydraulically climbed two larger scaffolds together, with materials spanning between them, in a synchronized manner. The hydraulic jacks were positioned on the 46th floor and during the hydraulic climbing, both scaffolds failed.

The materials on the two scaffolds, weighing approximately 13,000 pounds, fell to the ground, and the two failed scaffolds were later brought down with a crane.

Four people were injured, including two site workers and a fifth person, a by-stander, died of a heart attack while fleeing the debris.

