

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:

December 2008

Accident Type:

Aerial Lift Accident - Fall

Relevant laws, rules and Manual codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2), 1926.453, 1926.454, Aerial Lift
Manufacture's Operating

Case:

A 38 year-old electrician was killed when he fell off a scissor lift.

Accident Detail:

The worker was involved in installing lighting fixtures in the lobby of a new office building. The employee was working from a scissor lift that was elevated approximately 15 feet above the floor and positioned along the edge of a 6 feet deep concrete pit that was to house a decorative fountain structure in the lobby area.

It is unknown exactly what occurred as the deceased worker was the only one in the area at the time of the incident. While installing the lighting fixtures, the worker somehow fell from the lift, landing head first into the concrete pit below.

When another coworker walked by, he noticed the employee lying in the pit and called for emergency services personnel, who were unable to revive the injured employee.

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 revealed that the worker was not trained in the safe use of that scissor lift. The lift’s working platform was missing its guardrail/safety chain, which was located on the side overlooking the fountain pit. From the position of the lift and the partially secured fixture, it appears that the worker may have overreached to access the fixture’s mounting bracket rather than repositioning the lift.

Preventive Safety Measures Include:

- All operations are preplanned using a Job Safety Task Analysis (JSTA) to ensure potential safety hazards associated with an operation are identified and appropriate steps are taken to eliminate or control them.
- Workers required to use Aerial Lifts are trained in the safe use and operation of the specific lift to be used, the hazards associated with the work to be performed, personal protective equipment, fall protection and other safe work procedures necessary to perform their assigned tasks.
- Employees should be instructed not to overreach when attempting to access difficult work areas, but rather relocate to a safer and more efficient position to perform the work.

Attendance Roster

Reference: This case was reported in the NIOSH Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program, Report #2005MI065.

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