

CSI Country Wide Case Study Safety Strategy Discussion

Construction Safety Investigator

CHUBB®

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:

February 2009

Accident Type:

Occupational Health Accident - Lead Exposure

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2), (3), 1926.62, 1910.134

Case:

Two workers were hospitalized after being exposed to high concentrations of lead based paint.

Accident Detail:

Two workers employed by a bridge demolition contractor, were involved in removing sections of bridge paint at pre-determined locations in preparation for demolition.

The workers were using needle scalers to remove the bridge paint down to bare metal at locations where either sections of the bridge are cut using torches or hydraulic shears. Needle scalers are pneumatic tools with fine chisels called needles that move against the work surface removing paint or other coatings.

During the scaling process, paint is chipped into fine particles that can be inhaled or ingested. After three days of scaling, both workers became ill and were taken to local area hospitals where they were found to have lead poisoning.

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?

