

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:

June 2008

Accident Type:

Battery Charging Accident - Explosion

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.20(b)(4), 1926.21(b), 1926.441, Battery Charger Mfr's Owners Manual, Battery Mfr's charging instructions

Case:

An equipment maintenance worker was seriously injured and the maintenance building he worked in was severely damaged, when charging vehicle equipment batteries exploded.

Accident Detail:

The worker was employed by a construction company as a mechanic and also responsible for maintaining the batteries for the trucks and heavy equipment. The mechanic would routinely switch out batteries needing maintenance and charging in the "Battery" room.

The battery room was a small room within the maintenance facility located near the rear of the building. The maintenance facility was an older steel building that had previously been renovated.

At the time of the incident, the maintenance worker was working on a piece of equipment near the battery room when the explosion occurred. The explosion caused serious burns and other injuries to the worker, blew a 375 square-foot hole in the roof of the building and caused walls to collapse, significantly damaging the facility.

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?

