

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:

December 2009

Accident Type:

Fall Accident - Lack of Preplanning

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2), 1926.501(b)(1), 1926.503

Case:

A 54 year-old construction worker was killed when he fell off an unprotected balcony.

Accident Detail:

The worker was employed by a contractor hired to renovate the interior lobby area of an office building.

Prior to the incident, the worker was removing the carpeted floor and other items on the balcony that overlooked the lobby. On the day of the incident, the building's owner had finalized a last minute change order that now included the removal and replacement of the balcony and stair railing system. Due to the limited amount of time to complete this new change order, the railings needed to be removed right away to make room for the new ones.

The worker was instructed to stop the task he was performing and focus only on the removal of the railing system. The current railing system was constructed of metal stanchions with glass panels attached between them. The worker began to remove the glass panels first, starting at the wall and moving across the front of the balcony. As he removed the panels, it left large openings down to the lobby floor. While working, he allegedly misjudged his position and fell through one of the panel openings.

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?

