

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:

September 2009

Accident Type:

Fall Accident - From Ladder

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

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

Case:

While working from a ladder, a 49 year-old electrician fell to his death.

Accident Detail:

The deceased was a longtime veteran electrician working for a contractor hired to upgrade electrical fixtures and other items in a building being renovated.

Just prior to the incident, the electrician was working with another employee installing electrical cable for the back up power source. During the installation, they found that they needed additional parts to make the connection. It was expected to take approximately 20 to 30 minutes before the needed components would arrive.

While they waited, the now deceased electrician decided to begin installing lighting fixtures in another area of the building. In order to reach a new fixture in a location over a stairwell, the electrician apparently positioned a step ladder in this area. The position of the step ladder placed him higher than the top rail of the stairway guardrails. Investigators believe the electrician lost his footing while leaning too far to reach the fixture, and he fell over the rail, falling approximately 25 feet.

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?

