

# CSI Country Wide Case Study Safety Strategy Discussion

## Construction Safety Investigator



### Instructions

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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:

May 2007

### Accident Type:

Mechanical Accident - Equipment Maintenance

### Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(a)(4), 1926.21(b)(2), Equipment Mfr's Operation and Maintenance Manual and Published Safety Precautions

### Case:

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A worker was killed when a quick-connect hydraulic coupling released, striking him in the throat at high velocity.

### Accident Detail:

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The worker was employed by a contractor as a maintenance mechanic and was assigned to the equipment yard. At the time of the incident, the mechanic was replacing hydraulic couplings on a piece of equipment.

As he was removing the coupling from the hydraulic cylinder on the equipment, he was unaware that pressure had built up behind it. As he unscrewed the coupling, the pressure was too great for the remaining threads to hold it in place and the coupling broke free of the cylinder at a high velocity, striking the worker in the throat.

### Reconstructive Safety Evaluation:

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- 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?

