

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:

2007

Accident Type:

Scaffolding Accident - Bridge Construction

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.21(b)(2), OSHA 29 CFR 1926 subpart M, OSHA 29 CFR 1926.502(k), 29 CFR 1926 subpart L (scaffolds), (29 CFR 1926.451(a), Scaffolding)

Case:

Worker Dies When Falls Through Temporary Wood “Catch” Platform

Accident Detail:

The construction project involved work on a bridge deck where a “catch” platform below the work area was designed to prevent any construction debris generated on site from falling to the ground below. The “catch” platform is a set of wooden planks (e.g. 2' X 10') that are placed from the bottom of one I-beam to the bottom of another I-beam, with the end of the planks set to simply rest on the lip of the I-beam. The planks are typically not secured to the I-beam, and it is common to observe gaps and shifting of the planks in a “catch” platform.

The victim stepped down from the I-beam onto the wooden catch platform to move a “pic” board, a metal runway used to transport concrete between work areas on the bridge. Immediately after the victim stepped down, one plank broke across its width, resulting in the employee falling partially through the platform. As the employee fell, other wooden planks making up the platform shifted because the planks were not affixed to one another, and the victim fell completely through the platform.

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?

