

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:

2/4/18

Accident Type:

Trench Collapse

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1); 1926.21(b)(2); 29 CFR 1926.651(i)(1); 29 CFR 1926.651(k)(1)

Case:

Workers Killed In Collapsing Trench

Accident Detail:

Two workers were killed when a concrete median barrier wall collapsed into a trench. During a highway reconstruction project, a need to repair a buried drainage pipe arose. The contractor opened a trench that was approx. 3.5 feet deep, approx. 2' 10' inches wide and more than 130 feet long which ran along a concrete center median barrier wall.

When the workers opened the trench to repair the drainage pipe, the wall became unstable and collapsed into the trench, killing the two workers.

- The concrete median barrier wall sat directly on the utility trench, which was backfilled with flowable fill.
- Other than the subgrade soil underneath, the concrete median barrier wall was not supported by or secured to any other structures, such as an inlet or pavement shoulder.

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?

