



Safety Tip of the Week

Your Safety Is Our Business®

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Near Miss Incidents

Often unsafe acts or unsafe conditions have several misfires and the result is a near miss accident or incident. The only difference between a near miss and an accident is luck.



No matter how trivial they are, near miss incidents should be reported as soon as possible to a supervisor just as you would report an accident.

The Same Things That Cause Accidents Cause Near Misses:

- Unsafe acts, such as improper lifting; walking under an overhead load; cutting, grinding, or chipping without safety glasses; not using proper Personal Protective Equipment, etc.;
- Unsafe conditions, such as poorly maintained equipment, oil or grease on floors, welding leads that have been laid in walkways, trash and boxes that have been left in hallways, etc.;
- Hurrying and taking risks to get a project done faster or to wrap up a job at quitting time; and
- Distractions or not concentrating on the task that is being performed.

Report Near Misses Before They Become Accidents:

- Once a near miss occurs, report it immediately to the nearest foreman or supervisor. The potential for such incidents exists all over the workplace, so all employees—not just supervisors-- must help identify them.
- If the near miss is a result of an unsafe condition, don't continue to work under that condition. Wait until the problem has been corrected and your supervisor gives the okay to proceed.
- If the incident is a result of unsafe acts, be certain that everyone involved has been alerted to their actions before they continue with the job.

Accident prevention starts from near miss prevention!!