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Weekly Safety Tip

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August 15, 2016

SCI Safety Tip: Best practices in near-miss reporting

Source: <http://www.blr.com>

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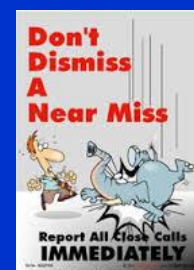


A near miss is much more than an opportunity to breathe a sigh of relief. Keep reading to find out how savvy employers leverage and learn from close-call incidents.

A near miss is an unplanned event that did not result in an injury, illness, or property damage. But it could have. According to the National Safety Council (NSC), “Only a fortunate break in the chain of events prevented an injury, fatality, or damage; in other words, a miss that was nonetheless very near.”

NSC adds that, “History has shown repeatedly that most loss-producing events, both serious and catastrophic, were preceded by warnings or near-miss incidents.” Recognizing and reporting these can significantly improve worker safety. NSC says organizations that do not have a proactive reporting culture, where employees are encouraged to report close calls, are losing opportunities to prevent incidents based on gaps that near misses can reveal.

SCI Safety Slogan



James Lehrke-SCI

Make sure your near-miss reporting program is doing all it should

Consider these best practices in near-miss reporting:

- Leaders must establish a reporting culture that encourages employees to act on every opportunity to identify and control hazards, reduce risk, and prevent harmful incidents.
- The system should be non-punitive and anonymous, if the individual doing the reporting prefers.
- Employers must investigate near-misses to identify root causes and weaknesses in the system that led to them.
- Results should be used to improve safety systems, hazard control, risk reduction, and lessons learned. Findings from investigations represent opportunity for valuable training, feedback on performance, and boosting your commitment to continuous improvement.



NSC suggests that employers consider incorporating the right kind of incentives into their near-miss reporting programs. An example is acknowledging participation of workers in the recognition and reporting of hazards. Incentives that have the potential to prevent reporting must be avoided. In recent years OSHA has come out strongly opposed to practices that discourage reporting and discourage employees from speaking up about hazardous conditions.

*A near miss can be an opportunity to improve the current safety culture. Daily safety toolbox talks can improve results with employees and safety teams. Management and supervisors can keep **safety** in front of employees for an effective solution to your safety program. Set up an appointment with Jim Lehrke today! 920-912-7233*

SCI OSHA Health and Safety Topics: Accident Investigations

Source: <http://www.osha.gov>

OSHA strongly encourages employers to investigate all incidents in which a worker was hurt, as well as close calls (sometimes called "near misses"), in which a worker might have been hurt if the circumstances had been slightly different.

In the past, the term "accident" was often used when referring to an unplanned, unwanted event. To many, "accident" suggests an event that was random, and could not have been prevented. Since nearly all worksite fatalities, injuries, and illnesses are preventable, OSHA suggests using the term "incident" investigation.

Investigating a Worksite Incident

Investigating a worksite incident— a fatality, injury, illness, or close call— provides employers and workers the opportunity to identify hazards in their operations and shortcomings in their safety and health programs. Most importantly, it enables employers and workers to identify and implement the corrective actions necessary to prevent future incidents.

Incident investigations that focus on identifying and correcting root causes, not on finding fault or blame, also improve workplace morale and increase productivity, by demonstrating an employer's commitment to a safe and healthful workplace.

Incident investigations are often conducted by a supervisor, but to be most effective, these investigations should include managers and employees working together, since each bring different knowledge, understanding and perspectives to the investigation.

In conducting an incident investigation, the team must look beyond the immediate causes of an incident. It is far too easy, and often misleading, to conclude that carelessness or failure to follow a procedure alone was the cause of an incident. To do so fails to discover the underlying or root causes of the incident, and therefore fails to identify the systemic changes and measures needed to prevent future incidents. When a shortcoming is identified, it is important to ask why it existed and why it was not previously addressed.



Have a Healthy Breakfast

Make sure your family eats a healthy breakfast every day. In addition to being a good way to start the day, a nutritious breakfast can help prevent overeating and snacking later in the day. Options like whole-grain cereal with low-fat or fat-free milk, oatmeal or fruit to start the day off right.

Healthy Breakfast Ideas

- Stir low-fat or fat-free granola into a bowl of low-fat or fat-free yogurt. Top with sliced apples or berries.
- Add strawberries, blueberries or bananas to whole-grain waffles, pancakes, cereal, oatmeal or toast.
- Top toasted whole-grain bread with a thin layer of peanut butter and sliced bananas.
- Add vegetables like bell peppers, broccoli, spinach, mushrooms or tomatoes to an egg or egg white omelet.

Incorporate fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables into your breakfast menu. Look for fruit without added sugar or syrups, and vegetables without added salt, butter or cream sauce.

For example:

- If a procedure or safety rule was not followed, why was the procedure or rule not followed?
- Did production pressures play a role, and, if so, why were production pressures permitted to jeopardize safety?
- Was the procedure out-of-date or safety training inadequate? If so, why had the problem not been previously identified, or, if it had been identified, why had it not been addressed?

These examples illustrate that it is essential to discover and correct all the factors contributing to an incident, which nearly always involve equipment, procedural, training, and other safety and health program deficiencies.

Addressing underlying or root causes is necessary to truly understand why an incident occurred, to develop truly effective corrective actions, and to minimize or eliminate serious consequences from similar future incidents.

Additional Resources

To assist employers and workers in conducting effective incident investigations, and to develop corrective action plans, the following resources can help:

- OSHA. [Incident \[Accident\] Investigations: A Guide for Employers](#) (PDF*). (2015). This guidance document provides employers with a systems approach to identifying and controlling the underlying or root causes of all incidents in order to prevent their recurrence.
- National Safety Council. [How to conduct an incident investigation](#) (PDF*). (2014). This four-page guidance document, developed by the [OSHA/NSC National Alliance](#), provides brief guidance on conducting an incident investigation.
- Washington State Department of Labor & Industries. [Accident Investigation Basics](#). (2009). This PowerPoint-based online training module provides an overview on conducting root-cause workplace incident investigations.

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In Loving Memory

In Loving Memory...
Jessica, Kristin and Nick



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