Near Misses are Too Close for Comfort!

WHAT’S AT STAKE?
A near miss, or close call, is an event that almost results in an injury, illness or property damage. Think back to a close call you had. Was a split second, a few inches, or dumb luck the only thing between you and death?

WHAT’S THE DANGER?
Near misses are red flags that something is dangerously wrong with a process, task, piece of equipment or tool, or something in the work environment. Too often these red flags are ignored, not reported or not corrected. This leaves room for the following to get too close to you and your co-workers:

- Catastrophic equipment failure.
- Fire and explosions.
- Chemical spills and other environmental disasters.
- Serious injury and death.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF
The best thing you can do to protect yourself and your co-workers is to speak up. Report near misses that you witness or that happen to you. This is easier said than done sometimes because you might:

- Fear getting in trouble or be embarrassed about your part in the incident.
- Not understand the importance near miss reporting plays in accident prevention.
- Be worried about breaking a safety or production record for so many days without an incident; or
- Be discouraged by the lack of action when similar issues have been reported.

While keeping silent may seem like the easy way out, think about how you would feel if a co-worker died because of a hazard that you knew existed but didn’t report?

Some other ways you can protect yourself include:

- Be aware of how your co-workers conduct themselves and work together to prevent injury and safeguard one another from incidents. Compare your routines and habits with theirs and share tips.
- Take responsibility for the equipment or machinery you use. If equipment or machinery causes you problems or appears to be broken, stop using it and report it to your supervisor.
- Ensure you understand and follow all safety procedures. If you have questions or have ideas for a safer way to do something talk to your supervisor.

FINAL WORD
Don’t give danger a second chance to get too close for comfort. Report all near misses immediately so they can be investigated and hazards can be corrected.

Meeting material to go: Safety meeting materials such as presentation tips, PowerPoint presentations, quiz answers and more are downloadable at www.SafetySmart.com

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE
1. Near misses are red flags that something is dangerously wrong with a process, equipment or task.
   - True    - False

2. A near miss is an event that results in minor injury, illness or property damage.
   - True    - False

3. You should not report a near miss if you know it will break a safety or production record for days without an incident.
   - True    - False

4. Keeping silent about a near miss could lead to you or a co-worker being injured or killed.
   - True    - False

What Would You Do?
You’re walking in the warehouse and as you turn the corner of a main aisle you are almost hit by a forklift coming the other way. That’s the second time in a month this has happened. What’s your next move? What are some safety measures that can be put in place to prevent this near miss from turning into something more serious?

__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
Preparation Tips:

1. Pass around the Attendance Sheet.
2. Be prepared to discuss near miss and incident reporting procedures at your facility.
3. Ask participants to share near miss experiences they have had – both in and out of work.
   - Discuss what was learned and what changes came from these near misses.
4. Suggested readings and videos:

After the Talk Checklist:

- Provided extra training to workers who did poorly on quiz
  - Date: _____________________________
- Observed workers
  - Date: _____________________________
- Refresher training
  - Date: _____________________________
- Other (describe)
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - _____________________________
  - ____________________