

ECA TBT 18 – Reporting A Near Miss

Key Information

Identifying and reporting Near Misses is a key part of ensuring ongoing site safety. This talk will explain what a Near Miss is - and why, in addition to reporting any injury accident, reporting a Near Miss is so important.

1. What is a Near Miss?

- A Near Miss is any event could have caused significant harm, loss or damage but which didn't
- It applies to an event where, if the situation had been slightly different, significant harm, loss or damage could have occurred.
- Other terms for a 'Near Miss' include; 'close shave', 'close call' or 'near hit'
- In addition to personal injury, 'Loss' can include damaged materials/plant or significant lost time.

2. What is the difference between an accident and a Near Miss?

- The difference can be as little as a fraction of a second, or a fraction of an inch - though it can be much more.
- 'Near Misses' are warnings of serious injury accidents in the making.
- By accepting 'Near Misses' as a warning and taking the correct action to prevent recurrence, site safety can be greatly improved.
- Any Near Miss is a reminder that the relevant safe system of work should be reviewed.

3. Examples of a Near Miss

Examples where a situation could have been 'slightly different' and resulted in a serious accident include:

- A heavy object falling right next to a worker - or falling onto a pedestrian route that is used regularly but this time, there was no one there.
- Someone who almost falls into or is even surprised when they walk right up to and discover, an unprotected opening to a lower level.
- Being almost struck by, startled by, or having to take evasive action to avoid, a moving vehicle.
- If you are in doubt as to whether something is a near miss, you can ask you supervisor.
- It is far better to report what you believe to be near miss, than not to.

4. Why report a Near Miss?

It's important to identify and report Near Misses since learning from what happened can help to prevent injury accidents in future.

- For every 600 incidents with no visible injury or damage, there is the potential for 30 property damage accidents, 10 minor injuries and one serious or disabling injury.
- Reporting a 'Near Miss' should not depend on whether there was an injury, - what matters is if it could have caused a significant injury if things had been just that bit different.

5. Remember How to report a Near Miss

- The immediate action before reporting a 'Near Miss' is to make any unsafe conditions safe and ensure the correct safety controls are in place (where possible) and/or to advise those who can do this.
- You must tell your supervisor what has happened. Report the 'Near Miss' to your Supervisor using your organisations reporting process – if you don't know what this is ask...

REMEMBER, REPORT ALL NEAR MISSES - YOU MAY PREVENT A SERIOUS FUTURE ACCIDENT.



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Rev: 0223

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