



Near Misses

A near miss is an unplanned event that did not result in injury, illness, or damage - but had the potential to do so. Only a fortunate break in the chain of events prevented an injury, fatality or damage.

Near misses happen frequently in construction work:
 You drop a tool from overhead and it falls harmlessly, missing workers below.
 You trip and fall over a piece of lumber, but don't get injured.
 You drive a pickup into the work area and park, only to find that you missed a coworker by inches.
 These are just a few scenarios of events that happen daily on construction projects. It seems like no big deal at the time but if circumstances had been a little different these events could have had disastrous results.

Five key questions should be answered: when investigating a near miss:

- Who
- What
- When
- Where
- Why

Fact should be distinguished from opinion, and both should be presented carefully and clearly. The report should include interviews with everyone witnessing the incident. A good investigation is likely to reveal several contributing factors, and it probably will recommend several preventive actions.

All incidents, whether a near miss or an actual injury-related event, need to be investigated.

Investigating a near miss incident will allow you to uncover the reason for the incident and take steps to prevent it from happening again. (with more tragic results)

It is useful only when done with the intent to discover all of the contributing factors to the accident/incident and make changes, if needed to prevent future occurrences. In other words, your objective is to identify root causes, not to primarily set blame.

When you investigate Near Misses and address the causes you are taken giant steps towards strengthening your safety program. The ability to recognize dangerous or hazardous procedures before an accident occurs is not only beneficial to your company but to all employees as well.

Points to Take With You:

- A near miss is an **INJURY** that could have happened
- Near misses should **ALWAYS** be evaluated.
- Near misses should **ALWAYS** be taken seriously.

Meeting Conducted By: _____

Date: _____

Comments: _____

Attendees:

Print	Signature	Print	Signature
1.		8.	
2.		9.	
3.		10.	
4.		11.	
5.		12.	
6.		13.	
7.		14.	