A NEAR MISS TODAY COULD BE AN INJURY TOMORROW

We often hear about incidents which resulted in colleagues being injured at work, and the corrective actions taken to prevent the incidents from reoccurring. But what about incidents where someone was almost injured?

Some people may brush off and forget about these near misses as no-one was hurt, but reporting these incidents is the first step to helping prevent similar – or more serious – incidents from happening in the future. Read on to understand why near miss reporting is important and why you should report all near misses.

WHAT IS A NEAR MISS?

Stork’s definition of a near miss is an unplanned or uncontrolled event, or chain of events, that has not resulted in recordable injury, illness, physical or environmental damage but had the potential to do so in other circumstances.

That means that a near miss is one step away from an incident actually happening and potentially injuring you or your colleague!

NEAR MISSES @ STORK!

A wrench fell 160ft and landed 5ft from where a pipe welder was working on the ground.

A colleague was welding on scaffolding which was near an open sewer. A welding spark fell into the sewer and ignited vapours, which caused a flash fire. The fire was extinguished and no-one was injured.

A colleague was driving a rental car that recently underwent preventative maintenance. While driving he realized the brakes were not working. He steered the vehicle into the hard shoulder to avoid a collision.
PREVENT FUTURE INCIDENTS

Reporting a near miss is the first step to preventing incidents from happening in the future.

Your local HSSEQ representative will track near misses, investigate how and why they occurred, and take corrective action.

This will help create a safer workplace for all employees.

HOW TO REPORT

If you are working at a Client, you can use the Client’s reporting system, however, please also notify your Stork supervisor so we can learn lessons internally as well.

If you are working at a Stork site, please use the local system to report near misses or the REACH Beyond Zero response cards. If the cards or a system to report near misses are not in place then please contact your local HSSEQ representative and reachbeyonddzero@stork.com.

IMPROVED SAFETY CULTURE

Increased near miss reporting will help create a culture that doesn’t wait until someone is injured, but identifies the risk before it happens.

Near miss reports enable early intervention, and are great opportunities to reduce the likelihood of workplace injuries and improve organisational safety performance.

Learning from what could have happened far outweighs learning from what did happen.

ENGAGEMENT

Encourage your team to report all near misses.

Discuss how these near misses and incidents could have been prevented and identify ideas for improvement.

Overcome potential barriers to making those improvements.

Share your thoughts, lessons learned or feedback with us by emailing: reachbeyonddzero@stork.com.

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