

Toolbox

Safety Series



LEARN FROM NEAR-ACCIDENTS

When you're driving down the highway at a pretty good clip and another car pulls out in front of you, it's necessary to hit the brakes or make a quick move to avoid an accident. You'll probably be pretty hot over the other driver's actions. If you're smart you won't let anger overpower your safe driving habits. You'll remind yourself to slow down, be more alert and watch cars in other lanes. Next time this could save your life.

Close calls or near-accidents on the job should be converted into safety precautions. A near-accident is an indication that something is wrong. It's a warning!

Let's review some typical accidents that could have been avoided if the close call warning had been heeded.

A shop employee stumbled over a two-by-four and fractured an ankle. A janitor tripped over a loose floor tile and fell against a metal guardrail. After slipping on some trash, and grabbing a metal file cabinet to break the fall, the cabinet landed on the falling secretary.

These accidents could have been prevented. Picking up the two-by-four and the trash on the floor would have prevented these accidents. No one paid any attention to the warnings in each of these cases, nothing was done, and the accidents were a result.

As the saying goes, we make our own luck. We have to act in a safe manner and take proper precautions. It's not hard to recall the accidents you've had. A near-accident is often forgotten without any benefits resulting from the experience.

How can we turn a close call into a positive safety experience? First, we have to think safety and become concerned over near-accidents. Then correct the situation by removing the hazard that caused the near-accident. If you can't handle it, report it to your supervisor. All near accidents should be reported. There's at least one good lesson to be learned from every near-accident, and in many cases more than one lesson.

Safety awareness is always important. It's a case of preparing yourself mentally to act in a safe manner and to recognize a close call as a warning. When a stack of boxes tips over - or the handle on a tool snaps - or a ladder slips - you should get the message and then do something about it.

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LEADER NOTES

Objective: To stress that little things can be corrected to prevent accidents.
To reinforce the concept of reporting all near-accidents.

THE TALK – POINTS TO COVER

- Close calls or near-accidents on the job should be converted into safety precautions.
- A near-accident is an indication that something is wrong. It's a warning!
- There are some typical accidents that could have been avoided if the close call warning had been heeded.
 - A shop employee stumbled over a two by-four and fractured an ankle.
 - A janitor tripped over a loose floor tile and fell against a metal guardrail.
 - After slipping on some trash, and grabbing a metal file cabinet to break the fall, the cabinet landed on the falling secretary.
- These accidents could have been prevented.
- We have to act in a safe manner and take proper precautions.
- We have to think safety and become concerned with near-accidents.
- Correct the situation by removing the hazard that caused the near-accident.
- All near-accidents should be reported.
- There's at least one good lesson to be learned from every near-accident, and in many cases more than one lesson.
- Safety awareness is always important. It's a case of preparing yourself mentally to act in a safe manner and to recognize a close call as a warning.

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Location: _____
Date: _____ Time: _____
Number of employees: _____ Number attending: _____

Record of those attending:

Name: (please print)	Signature:

Other safety issues or suggestions made by employees:

Manager's remarks: _____

Manager: _____
(Signature)

Supervisor: _____
(Signature)