

Toolbox

Safety Series



LOOKING BACK

Looking back can either be safe or dangerous, depending on the circumstances.

If you turn your head to look back while you're driving, you could hit the car ahead of you. But looking back while you're backing your car out of a parking space is a safe thing to do.

The practice of looking back has certain applications that are very important in promoting job safety. After you've been involved in a "near miss" accident, a look back at what brought about the incident can be valuable in preventing a repeat of the occurrence.

Many job injuries are caused by repeated "near misses" that went unchecked. The boxes that fall from the top of the storage rack whenever someone bumps into the shelves; the pieces of debris that peck away at a power saw operator; the sparks that fly when a maintenance worker turns on a power tool; these and similar situations are "near misses." They will continue until someone does something about them, or until they result in an injury.

Success in any venture hinges on the retracing of events. The game films a coach studies on Monday morning is one example. A discussion with your supervisor about something that isn't working right, or reporting a "near miss", is a must from a safety stand point.

An occasional review of job procedures is also a good investment of time. Are you running your machine the safe way, or have you substituted some shorter, but unsafe, practices?

The reporting of "near misses" may seem like a waste of time. It's always the other person who gets hurt. Each of us should do everything possible to correct hazards before that other person does get hurt.

You must give specific and clear information when you report a "near miss".

A reason for not reviewing a "near miss" is our natural tendency to avoid thinking about unpleasant occurrences. Look on the positive side and realize that a review of a "near miss" is important to safety and will safeguard your health.

Do you remember when the value of a human body was only about seven dollars? Today a top grade skeleton sells for about \$800. A full wig is worth about \$350.

So don't underestimate your value. When you have a brush with an accident, don't shrug it off. Look back to determine what really happened. Then report it to your supervisor. Your safety is worth the effort.

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LEADER NOTES

Objective: To reinforce the concept of reporting “near misses” and to determine preventive measures before someone is injured.

THE TALK – POINTS TO COVER

- Looking back can either be safe or dangerous, depending upon the circumstances.
- The practice of looking back has certain applications that are very important in promoting job safety.
- Many job injuries are caused by repeated “near misses” that went unchecked.
- Potential injures like these can occur:
 - Boxes that fall from the top of the storage rack whenever someone bumps into the shelves.
 - Pieces of debris that peck away at a power saw operator.
 - The sparks that fly when a maintenance worker turns on a power tool.
- These and all similar situations are “near misses.”
- They will continue until someone does something about them, or until they result in an injury.
- An occasional review of job procedures is also a good investment of time.
- The reporting of “near misses” may seem like a waste of time.
- Each of us should do everything possible to correct hazards before that other person does get hurt.
- Another reason for not reviewing a “near miss” is our natural tendency to avoid unpleasant memories.
- When you have a brush with an accident, determine what really happened, then report it to your supervisor. Your safety is worth the effort.

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LOOKING BACK

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)