

Worksite: _____ Instructor: _____ Date/Time: _____

Topic C120: Near Misses

Introduction: “Near miss” is the term used when you have a “close call”, “dodge a bullet”, or nearly have an injury producing accident. If you always work at the edge of good safety practices, the law of averages proves that sooner or later you will have an accident. Near misses are an indication that something has gone dramatically wrong. By taking corrective action, appropriate changes can be implemented before a worker sustains a serious or life threatening injury.

Near Misses on the Job: Near misses on the job can occur at any time. Following are appropriate steps to ensure near misses will not become future “direct hits!”

- Correct the near miss hazard immediately. Do not procrastinate.
- Report the near miss to management. It is vital that management is aware of not only accidents but also unsafe conditions and near misses.
- Discuss the near miss with personnel that have the potential to encounter the same hazard. Educate and train personnel as to how to safely handle the potential hazard and avoid all future near misses and accidents.
- Document and handle all near misses in the same manner and seriousness you would an actual accident.

Learn from your mistakes. Do not take near misses lightly. Internalize the mistake and reduce the chance of repeating the error and perhaps causing an accident.

The following questions should come to mind when researching near misses.

- What were the circumstances surrounding the near miss?
- Is there a safety procedure covering the situation or should a new procedure be implemented?
- Was the worker instructed in the proper safety procedure?
- Were safety devices used properly?
- Are there external factors that account for the near miss?
- Is the worker a “repeat offender” and does he/she frequently have near misses and accidents?

Near Misses on the Road – Near misses on the roadways are to be taken seriously and are indications of dangerous driving techniques or circumstances.

- Learn from your mistakes. Do not take near misses lightly. Internalize the mistake and reduce the chance of repeating the error and perhaps causing an accident.
- Take corrective action. Examine your eyesight and night-vision to ensure that your depth perception is accurate.
- Stay alert and pay attention to what you are doing, avoid daydreaming, road conditions, and distractions.
- Report mechanical problems and unsafe vehicle conditions to management immediately.

Conclusion: Every near miss is a caution sign. Your health and safety must be priority #1 while working. Take the time to evaluate and correct each near miss and save yourself and others the chance of future accident and injury.

Employee Attendance: (Names or signatures of personnel who are attending this meeting)

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