

Tailgate talk

Today's Subject:

Near misses

Date: _____

Whew! You were just performing a hazardous task, and something went wrong. Fortunately, you escaped injury, so it's tempting to just forget that the near miss even happened.

Important: You should never just brush off a near miss – it needs to be investigated so we can take steps to correct the problems that led to it.

What to focus on

Here are two things to keep in mind to help us learn valuable lessons from near misses.

1. Always report near misses. Whether you were directly involved in a near miss or just witnessed one, you should always report what happened to me or another supervisor.

Don't be worried about "ratting out" a coworker. We're not planning to punish someone because of a near miss. Rather, we want to learn about the almost-incident so we can take steps to prevent a more serious event down the road.

2. Write down what you saw. Right after you witness a near miss or are involved in one, write down everything you remember about it. That way, you'll be better able to provide us with valuable assistance when we launch our investigation of the near miss.