

Near Miss Reporting

If a brick falls off a scaffold and does not hit anybody or anything, should we take notice? The answer, of course, is “yes”, which is why we have near miss reporting.

- What is a near miss? The definition is:- “an unplanned and undesired event that could have resulted in harm”.
- REMEMBER that if an incident occurs then something has gone wrong and it may do so again, next time a person could be injured or damage could occur. That person could be you.
- The diagram on the cover of the Near Miss Report Book explains why we should be looking at near misses because statistics show that for each serious injury, there are twenty-nine minor injuries and it is estimated that there are three hundred no injury accidents.
- The purpose of collecting this information is to find out where the potential for accidents lies then do something about it.
- We are not just talking money here, people are being killed and maimed. Is it not better to learn our lessons without a cost? An accident without a cost is a near miss. This is why a near miss should be regarded as a free lesson.
- However, it is not just incidents that are of interest, undesirable safety standards need to be reported for the same reasons as near misses.
- You are present at the workface all the time and it is you who are most likely to see incidents. You will be first to see undesirable safety standards and it is you that are most at risk if nothing is done about it: “Don’t Walk By”.
- The Near Miss Log is kept on public display and it is available to anyone who wants to make an entry. Once an entry is made, it must be followed up and the action taken recorded.
- This system will only work if it is treated with respect. Please only make genuine and meaningful entries.
- Using this log does not mean you should not talk to people about your concerns, which is why you should tell the site manager or any member of the supervisory staff that you have made an entry.

Questions:

- 1 What is a near miss?
- 2 For every serious accident, how many estimated near misses are there?
- 3 Apart from making entries in the log, what should you do?

Remember:

Every near miss is a free lesson

Further Information:- CIP Manual, Section 1