



Greater Houston
Chapter

Toolbox Talk

Near Miss

Company Name _____

Speaker Name/Job Title _____ Date _____

How many times have you shrugged off a near miss? Never gave it a second thought? Next time, think twice. The difference between a near miss and an accident often is a fraction of a second, or an inch. And when it happens again, that difference may not be there.

WE NEVER KNOW WHEN THE SERIOUS INJURY IS NEXT

- One study shows that for every 330 incidents of the same type, 300 produce no injuries, 29 produce minor injuries and one produces a major injury. (Of course, these statistics vary with the job being done.)
- The problem is we never know which time the major injury will occur.
- Near misses are warnings. If we heed these warnings and look for causes, we may be able to prevent injury or damage.

HERE'S AN EXAMPLE

- You're going up a walkway into a building. Your foot slips. Being agile and empty handed, you regain your balance with no harm done. Another person comes along. He slips, but his reactions are a little slower than yours. To keep from falling, he jumps off the board. Again no harm done. Then comes a third person carrying a load. He has the same experience, but falls off the board with the load on top of him. He breaks his ankle.
- Two warnings were ignored. Finally, someone was hurt.
- Now the loose cleat, sand, or mud on the board is discovered and the condition corrected.

WHENEVER YOU SEE A NEAR MISS, ASK "WHY?"

- Suppose you're walking toward a suspended mason's scaffold. You see a brick fall, but hear no warning shout. Ask yourself: "Why did it fall? Was it kicked loose? Is a toe board missing?" Then correct this condition if possible. If not, report it to someone who can.

KEEP THE RIGHT ATTITUDE

- If you see a near miss, or one actually happens to you, then correct it.
- Be positive about the situation, no matter if you are embarrassed or not.
- Remember your action to fix the 'near miss' could be the voice that prevents a potential serious accident from happening in the future to one of your fellow employees, or even yourself.

Further Safety Recommendations by Meeting Attendees

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Meeting Attended By:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____