

# A Near Miss



Have you ever said, “Boy, that was a close call”? How many times have you come close to having an accident, shrugged it off as a “near miss”, and continued on without thinking too much more about it? It is vitally important that you think about: the only difference between an accident and a near miss is often a fraction of a second or a fraction of an inch; and the next time it happens, the result could be entirely different.

- A better way of thinking is of a “near accident”
- It is an indication that some type of problem exists
- ”Near accidents” need to be a wake-up call for us to change the way we were doing things
- Ignoring conditions that lead to “near accidents” is an invitation for an incident to occur

The same things that cause accidents cause near misses! *Unsafe Acts & Conditions* such as:

- Improper lifting
- Not planning your route while carrying loads
- Not using personal protective equipment
- Not paying attention while driving
- Poorly maintained equipment
- Oil or grease on floors
- Poor housekeeping in travel areas

Everyone can make a contribution to our safety efforts in these areas.

- Report near misses before they become an incident
- Correct the situation ASAP

We need to look out for each other. By mere chance that near miss occurred. Don’t wait for your luck to run out! Always do your task, whether at work or at home, with safety in mind.