



NEAR MISSES AND NEAR MISS REPORTING

TOOLBOX TALK SERIES – ACCIDENT PREVENTION

January 2026

Video Introduction

Today's safety topic begins with a short training video from **JJ Safety**:

Title: *"Preventing Accidents Before They Happen"*

Watch here: <https://youtu.be/MmPUKTzAgMY?si=8LeCLZpPEH0Rdn40>

This video highlights what are near misses and how to report them.

What Is a Near Miss?

A **near miss** is an event that *almost* causes an injury, property damage, or loss, but didn't — often due to luck or quick reaction.

Expanded Examples:

- A worker slips on ice but regains balance
- A vehicle backs up close to a coworker or pedestrian
- A hand tool slips but no one is hurt
- Equipment or machinery malfunctions but no injury occurs

Discussion Prompt:

- Can anyone share a near miss they have witnessed or experienced recently?
 - How close was it to causing a real injury?
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Why Reporting Matters

Near misses are **valuable safety information**. They tell us **what could go wrong** so we can fix hazards before someone gets hurt.

Expanded Benefits:

- **Prevent injuries:** Fix hazards before they cause harm
- **Improve procedures:** Adjust tasks, routes, or workflows



- **Educate staff:** Use examples to train others on risks
- **Promote safety culture:** Everyone is encouraged to watch out for hazards

A near miss is like a “free lesson” — learning now prevents injuries later.

Discussion Prompt:

- Have you seen a situation where a near miss could have been prevented with a small change?
 - What can we do differently next time?
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Common Barriers to Reporting

Staff often hesitate to report near misses due to:

- Belief that “no one was hurt, so it’s not important”
- Fear of getting in trouble
- Thinking “it happens all the time” or “it’s part of the job”
- Being unsure if it’s worth reporting

Expanded Reminder:

- Reporting is **not about blame**. It’s about **prevention** and improving the work environment.

Discussion Prompt:

- What could make it easier for employees to report near misses in our department?
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How to Report a Near Miss

Steps for Reporting:

1. Tell your supervisor immediately
2. Make sure to Include:
 - What happened
 - Where it happened
 - Why it happened
 - What could have happened



Expanded Tip:

- Even if it seems minor, report it — it could prevent a serious injury later
- Encourage **peer reporting**: if you see a hazard or near miss, speak up

Discussion Prompt:

- How would you explain to a coworker why a near miss should be reported?
 - Can we identify one hazard today that could cause a near miss if left unaddressed?
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After Reporting

Expanded Explanation:

- The focus is on **correcting hazards**, not punishing staff
- Investigations look for **root causes**, not blame
- Findings are shared with the team so **everyone can learn**
- Small, timely fixes can prevent **major injuries or property damage**

Discussion Prompt:

- Have you seen an incident where a near miss report led to a change that made the workplace safer?
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Key Takeaways

1. Near misses are **early warning signs** — never ignore them
2. Reporting **prevents injuries, protects coworkers, and improves operations**
3. Safety is **everyone's responsibility**
4. *If you see it — report it — before luck runs out!*

