



Okanagan Indian Band

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SAFETY TOOLBOX MEETING

TOPIC DISCUSSION: NEAR MISS

A Near Miss is an unplanned event that did not result in an injury, illness, or damage this time, but had the potential to do so. Only a fortunate break in the chain of events prevents an injury, fatality or damage; in other words, a miss that was nonetheless very near.

WHAT'S THE DANGER?

Near Misses are NEWS from the future. If near misses are unreported and allowed to continue, they will eventually be serious incident or injury. Unreported incidents and near misses will not be investigated and causes will not be corrected because nobody knows about them in the first place. Employees who don't report near misses

SAFETY TIPS:

- ✓ Report all incidents, near misses and hazards so everyone can go home uninjured at the end of the day.
- ✓ Your involvement in identifying, reporting, and discussing near misses is vital for a success safety program.
- ✓ Report all near misses and hazards so we can have a better, proactive safety program that prevents incidents before, not after they happen.
- ✓ Be proactive by inspecting your area and equipment, assess the risk by think about your task before you start, tidying up and report unsafe acts, conditions and near misses.

DEMONSTRATE:

Has everyone reported at least one hazard or near miss this month? Some of us might think that is a lot, but when you really think about it, near misses happen all the time, if not everyday. Not reporting near misses, means we are missing out on opportunities to make improvements.

EXAMPLES OF NEAR MISSES:

- An employee slips but does not hurt themselves.
- Dropped material that lands beside another person from a high shelf.
- Grinder disc explodes but doesn't hit anyone or damage anything.
- Worker not wearing PPE for the job.
- You trip over an electrical cord plugged into an outlet stretched across a walkway, but you don't fall.
- You drop a heavy object, but missed your toes...this time.
- While working on a piece of equipment, you receive a shock, but are not injured.



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DISCUSSION:

Did you understand what a near miss was before this safety talk?

Do you understand what a near miss is now after this safety talk?

Are there any near misses or hazards you would like to report now that you know what a near miss is?

Do you know how to report if you see a near miss, hazard, or incident?

Use the “What If” strategy, the next time you have a near miss. Ask yourself, “What if...?” What if that object I dropped had hit my toes? What if I had tripped over the cord and fallen? What if that minor shock wasn’t a minor shock after all?

Near misses are warnings. Heed those warnings and change your behavior to work safer in the future.

