



## **Near Miss- The One That Almost Happened**

What is a "near miss?" Webster defines it as: "A result that is nearly, but not quite, successful." For industry, it simply means that a serious accident *almost* occurred. Someone trips over a pallet, but doesn't fall. Two vehicles *almost* collide at a corner. A tool is dropped, but doesn't hit someone working below...this time.

Statistics tell us that for every 300 near misses there is one serious injury. It's obvious that a reduction in near misses will reduce the number of injuries that happen.

### **The Same Things That Cause Accidents Cause Near Misses:**

- **Unsafe acts**, such as improper lifting; walking under an overhead load; cutting or grinding without safety glasses; not using proper Personal Protective Equipment, etc.
- **Unsafe conditions**, such as poorly maintained equipment, oil or grease on floors, trash and boxes that have been left in hallways, etc.
- **Hurrying**, taking risks to get a task completed quickly.

### **Report Near Misses Before They Become Accidents:**

- Once a near miss occurs, report it immediately to your supervisor. It's important that everyone help identify *potential situations that can cause injuries*.
- If the near miss is a result of an unsafe condition, stop work until the problem has been corrected and your supervisor gives the okay to proceed.
- If the incident is a result of unsafe acts, be certain that everyone involved has been alerted to their actions before they continue with the job.

### **Near Misses Are A Warning:**

Letting a near miss go unreported provides an opportunity for a serious accident to occur. Correcting these actions or conditions will enhance safety and provide a better working environment for everyone. Don't let yourself or co-workers become statistics--report near misses to your supervisor.

