

Top 10 Barriers to Near-Miss Reporting

It's a given that reporting of near misses reduces injury incidents. A report of a near miss (close call) creates an opportunity for identifying and removing hazardous conditions and work practices.

Then why is it so difficult to get your people to report near misses? Maybe they are discouraged by one of these common barriers:

1. They don't know they are supposed to report near misses.
2. They don't know how to go about it. They don't know they should go to the supervisor.
3. They are afraid of being reprimanded or disciplined for actions that led to the incident.
4. They feel pressure from co-workers to keep quiet so nobody gets into trouble.
5. They are under pressure to maintain a clean incident record because the team will win a prize.
6. They are new and want to make a good impression.
7. The work culture says "suck it up and don't make a big deal out of it."
8. Co-workers are viewing the incident with humor instead of seeing the hazard. If everyone is laughing, how serious could it be?
9. Last time they tried to talk to the supervisor about something, they were belittled or disregarded.
10. It's just too much trouble filling out those forms.

Near-Misses are a warning that must be acted upon. Let it slide by and the next incident may be the accident.