

REPORT A “NEAR MISS”



WHAT IS A NEAR MISS?

A near miss incident is an event that could have resulted in an injury.

An example of a near miss could be:

- You trip over an obstacle but catch yourself before you fall
- A piece of equipment fails or breaks while you're using it
- You discover a sharp where you're not expecting it
- You need to move a heavy object and feel a strain
- A patient is exhibiting escalating behaviours

If you say to yourself, “that was a good catch!” or “I was lucky not to get hurt,” then it may be a near miss.

It is important to be proactive about any near miss you encounter. In this way, you are protecting yourself, your co-workers and patients.

HOW TO REPORT A NEAR MISS

- 1 Tell your supervisor or manager immediately about the incident.
- 2 Report the incident to your employer.
 - Health Authority employees call the Workplace Health Call Centre at 1-866-922-9464.
 - Affiliate/Independent employees fill out an **Incident/Injury Report**. Ask your supervisor for the form.
- 3 Ask for a copy of your report from your employer.
- 4 Tell your Joint Occupational Health and Safety worker representative about the incident, so they can raise the issue at the next JOHS Committee meeting.
- 5 Follow up with your JOHSC worker representative to see when and how changes will be made to correct the safety issue.

What is the difference between a hazard, a near miss and an injury?

Hazard: A thing or condition that could lead to an incident. Report hazards to keep incidents from occurring.

Near miss incident: An event that had the potential to cause injury or work-related illness. Report all near misses to protect you and your co-workers in the future.

Injury incident: An event that leads to a physical or mental injury, or a work-related illness. This can be immediate, like a fall or needlestick, or longer term like repetitive strain or PTSD.

NEVER LET ANYONE STOP YOU from reporting an injury, a near miss, or a hazard, no matter how small it may seem. This includes supervisors or any other person in authority.

