

Near Misses: Misunderstood Opportunities

*Provided by Curtis Speck, President
Safety Resources Company of Ohio, Inc. and
Stark County Safety Council Committee Member*

Near Misses are one of those safety concepts that can be very confusing depending on who is looking at them. To some, a near miss might seem like a success. An incident occurred and no one got hurt. That's good, right?

To a degree, yes that is good, but it's also not that simple. Ask a safety professional that question. The answer could become much longer and far more nuanced. To a safety professional, a Near Miss is just as much the result of luck as it is proper planning. This means, should the incident occur again there is still a serious potential for someone to get hurt or killed. It's not all doom and gloom though. While all safety incidents should always be avoided, Near Misses are unique in that they provide an opportunity to adapt safety plans around real hazards without someone being injured. To better explain this, let's look at the OSHA definition of a Near Miss.

Continued on next page

BWC Seeking Presenters

Do you have knowledge to share that can keep workplaces safe and healthy? Are you good in front of a crowd? If so, you could be a potential presenter for Ohio Safety Congress & Expo 2018 (OSC18), the nation's largest occupational-focused safety and health event. We're now accepting presentation proposals for this multi-day event, scheduled for March 7 – 9, 2018, in Columbus, Ohio. Presentations needed by 7/31. For more information, go to: https://bwc.expoplanner.com/index.cfm?do=reg.content&event_id=19&content_id=382&page_id=1&entity_id=55®s_id=0



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July 13, 2017

New location! Alex D. Krassas Event Center

“Safety of Fun—Cedar Point’s Safety Program”

Speaker: Ken Berryhill, Cedar Point
Amusement Park and Resorts
Director of Safety

Spotlight Company



At our modern 25,000-sq-ft facility, now located in N. Canton, you will find experienced craftspeople combine creativity with the latest technology to fashion plaques, awards and gifts of any size or specification by hand. We continue to craft the Pro Football Hall of Fame Hometown Hall of Famers™ series of bronze plaques. Our products are displayed at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Secret Service, Marine Helicopter Squadron One, the Ronald Reagan Library, the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum, the U.S. Government Printing Office and other similar organizations. We specialize in employee recognition awards, donor recognition walls and architectural signage made from the highest quality materials. All our products are made to last a lifetime.

Contact John Orr at jorr@massillonplaque.com or 330-494-4199 learn more or to request a quote.

While there is some debate as to what constitutes a Near Miss, OSHA defines them as “...Unplanned events that do not result in injury, illness, or damage, but had the potential to do so.” In other words, no one is hurt in a near miss, but they could have been, and that’s where the opportunity lies. Near misses provide the opportunity to examine an incident and say, “If someone had been here, they would be severely injured. How do we prevent this from happening again?” By inspecting and reviewing the circumstances that lead to the incident, plans can be developed and implemented to prevent them from happening again.

However, this only works if your company encourages employees to report incidents when they occur. There are many examples as to how to approach this. As with all safety topics, training is important. Employees not only need to be taught how to identify near misses and other potential hazards, but also how to report them. Using anonymous reporting systems has been shown to improve employee participation, as have incentive programs that reward employees for reporting safety issues. While it may also be tempting to reward employees for maintaining low injury rates or for going a period of time without an injury, these types of programs can be a double edged sword. Because these types of programs reward workers for not having reported incidents on file, they can encourage employees to overlook or hide knowledge of incidents, actively making workplaces less safe.

Ultimately, it’s important to recognize and respect the fact that a Near Miss means that your workplace was not safe. It only takes a few inches for a Near Miss to become a severe injury, so by encouraging employees to report unsafe conditions before an incident occurs, you won’t have to rely on random luck to protect your workplace.

ROBIN’S CORNER

By Robin Watson, Ohio BWC Representative

Question:

What options do I have to secure a guard to a machine?

Answer?

You are required to attach guards to machines with bolts, screws, allen screws or other similar means requiring a tool to remove them. Your other option is to install electrical interlocks which will cause the machine not to run if the guards are removed. The availability of this option is dependent on the type of equipment and controls that are in place. Keep in mind that your guard must not allow employees to reach around, under, over, or through the guard to access the haz-

ard. For more information, please see OSHA 29 CFR 1910.212 and ANSI B11.19 - Performance Requirements for Safeguarding.

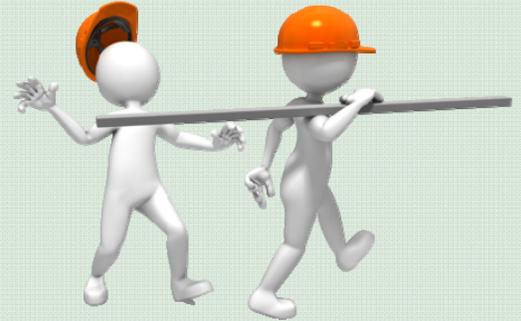


Please contact your local BWC safety consultant if you are unsure if your machine is guarded properly. They can perform a machine guarding assessment and offer recommendations to protect your employees from equipment hazards.

Workplace Safety— Do You Have A Management Plan?

*Provided by Bob Nicoll, Program Manager / CareWorksComp
and Stark County Safety Council Steering Committee*

Workplace safety is a high priority and concern for both employers and employees. Despite our best efforts a workplace injury can happen, and when it does, it is very important to have a plan in place to effectively manage the claim from the moment it occurs. Effective claim management requires knowledge, involvement and good communication from ownership, management and staff. All employees should be trained and familiar with injury protocols and procedures so they know what is expected of them when an injury occurs to them or a co-worker. Company policy should require that all injuries must be reported immediately to management.



When a workplace injury occurs it is crucial that the injured worker receive medical attention as quickly as possible. Once the injured worker is able to do so, he/she should complete an accident report and complete and sign the FROI (First Report of Injury). It is also a good idea to thoroughly investigate the circumstances of the accident. A supervisor should complete an Incident Report to include notarized witness statements, photographs of the accident site and documentation of any information about the accident such as work being performed, what equipment or personal protective equipment was being used as well as work conditions at the time of the accident.

As soon as possible after the accident the employer should notify their Managed Care Organization (MCO) case specialist. It is also recommended that the employer contact their Third Party Administrator (TPA) claims examiner to discuss issues related to certification and claim cost control strategies particularly if the injured worker is expected to miss seven or more days of work. In this case it is suggested the employer request a Medco-14 form from their MCO. This form has return-to-work information, any work restrictions and the treating physicians contact information. This is crucial information if the employer has a Transitional Work Program, can accommodate modified work for the injured worker and is considering wage continuation.

One of the most important things required of effective claim management is good communication. It is important that the employer and the injured worker maintain good communication as the claim moves through the employers experience. The employer should notify their MCO and TPA of any changing circumstances involving the injured worker such as employment status or condition. Don't assume that your TPA and MCO have received critical information about the claim. Be sure to communicate any information you receive from the injured worker, injured worker's counsel (if applicable), physicians and the BWC.

Unfortunately injuries happen, but knowledge, involvement and good communication are essential ingredients that keep you from making workers' comp claim management mistakes.

Update: BWC's Safety Council Rebate Program FY18

The Bureau of Worker's Compensation announced they will continue the safety council rebate program for another year. FY18 begins July 1, 2017 and runs through June 30, 2018.

The following is a breakdown of potential rebates when an employer is an active member of a safety council.

- Employers meeting all safety council rebate eligibility requirements that are **not enrolled in a group-rating program** will earn a 2-percent participation rebate on their premium and the potential of an additional 2-percent performance bonus.
- Employers meeting all safety council rebate eligibility requirements that are also **enrolled in a group-experience-rating program** have the potential to earn a 2-percent performance bonus.
- Employers meeting all safety council rebate eligibility requirements that are also **enrolled in a group-retrospective-rating program** will earn a 2-percent participation rebate.

To earn a performance bonus, employers must reduce either the severity or frequency of injuries in their workplace by 10 percent or remain at zero.

Rebate eligibility requirements:

1. Join your local safety council by July 31, 2017. **Current members do not need to re-enroll.**
2. Attend 10 safety council meetings;
3. Send a qualified senior-level manager to a safety council sponsored meeting;
4. Submit semiannual workplace accident reports for the 2017 calendar year.



Class Schedule (North Canton)
339 E. Maple St. Suite 200
North Canton, OH 44720
Register at bwclearningcenter.com

NFPA 70E and You: Insight and Implementation—July 27 8:30-4:30 p.m.

Safety Series Workshop Module 1— Aug. 14 1-4:30 pm

Machine Guarding Basics—Aug. 29—8:30-Noon

Lockout/Tagout and Safety-related Work Practices—1-4:30 pm

Upcoming Events

Coming in August—Combustible Dust Awareness Seminar—at the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce—\$10.00 members \$15.00 non-members—Contact Connie Cerny at 330.458.2061 for registration

Stark County Safety Council Wins 2017 Stand Down To Prevent Falls Event

Thank you to the 51 Stark County Safety Council Member Participants for taking SAFETY to the next level and creating a SAFER work place environment for your employees!

OSHA Stand Down Challenge Participants

Abbott Electric	Midwest Industrial Supply
Aeration Septic Inc	MK Morse Company
ARE Accessories	Multi County Juvenile Attention System
Beaver Constructors	Myers Controlled Power
Beaver Excavating	Navarre Industries
Brewster Cheese	Paarlo Plastics
Buckeye Council BSA	Plain Township
Builders Exchange of East Central Ohio	Resco Products
Canton Chair Rental	Rettew Associates
Case Farms	RG Smith
Central Allied	Salco Machine
Combi Packaging Systems	Service Steel Aerospace
Con Agg Logistics	Sirak Financial Services
Extreme Trailers	Sparta Steel
GBS	Stark County Engineers
Green Meadows Health & Wellness Center	Stone Products
Gregory Galvanizing	Technibus
Gregory Industries	The Knoch Corporation
Hammond Construction	Timken Steel Corp
Home Instead Senior Care	Tractor Parts
Interstate Fire & Security Systems	Tycor Roofing
J & K Subway Inc	United Architectural Metals
LG Fuel Cell Systems	USA Precast
Lindsay Precast	Village of Brewster
Mid-East Truck & Tractor Service	

Coming Next Month

August 10, 2017

“Find a Way, A Safe Way”
Speaker: Brad Hurtig

A national speaker, Brad Hurtig, presents to safety councils and businesses his experience with workplace safety. As a teenager, he was involved in a workplace accident that resulted in the amputation of both of his hands. After the accident, he went on to rejoin his high school football team, lead the team in tackles and receive all-state honors while playing without hands.

Spotlight Company:



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Stark County Safety Council June 2017 Luncheon Photos



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