

TOOLBOX TALK NO.14

Accident prevention & control



An accident is an unplanned, unscheduled, unwanted event or occurrence or any undesired circumstance that may result in injury to persons and damage to property.

Hazard is the potential to cause harm

Risk is the likelihood that an undesired event will occur due to the realisation of a hazard by or during work or by-products created by work.

There are many factors to understand as to why accidents happen in construction, the trends and causes, the impact they can have and the preventative measures that are required.

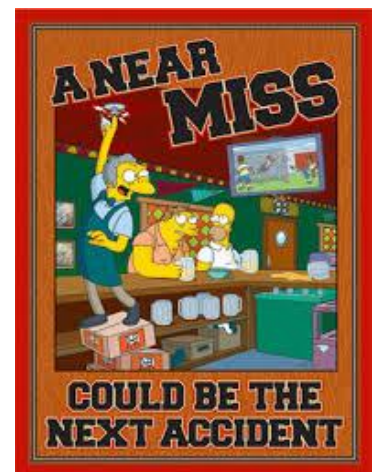
On average, annual construction industry statistics show:

- There are 50 construction fatalities
- There are 2,500 reported specified injuries
- There are 5,700 over seven day injuries
- 1500 workers are injured falling from height
- Manual handling accounts for 11% of all reported specified injuries to workers
- Slips and trips account for 22% of all reported over three day injuries

The importance of near miss reporting is the learning from experience. It is an essential element of accident prevention. A near miss is an incident that had the potential to result in personal injury and/or damage to the structure under construction, plant and equipment or the environment. Near misses must be accurately and honestly reported to enable the circumstances to be investigated and appropriate measures put in place to prevent a recurrence. Close calls are wake up calls! REPORT IT, DO NOT HIDE IT! A RE-OCCURANCE MAY INJURE YOU.

The main causes of accidents:

- Lack of planning, management control & supervision
- Lack of knowledge of good safety techniques
- Lack of safety awareness
- Unsafe methods of working at height, including lack of provision for fall prevention
- Unsafe manual handling, loading, stacking and storing.
- Incorrect use of machinery, tools and equipment
- Untidy workplaces
- Failure to inspect and maintain machinery & equipment
- No separation between plant / machinery and the public.
- Ignoring safety signals, signs and warning devices.
- Failure to report faulty or unsafe equipment
- Creating unstable structures
- Failure to use protective safety equipment
- Carrying out work on moving parts with guards removed or safety devices inoperative



**SAFETY AS
STANDARD**

Questions:

Name two causes of accidents in workplace? (See above).

What is the main cause of slips, trips and falls? (Untidy work area / site).

The cost of an accident to you:

- Pain and suffering
- Loss of earnings
- Extra expense
- Continuing disability and depression
- Incapacity for the same job
- Incapacity for work outside the job
- Effect on dependants and friends
- Worry and stress

Unsafe acts can create unsafe conditions, which can cause accidents. These accidents often result in injury or damage.

Accident Prevention:

- Reporting near misses, prevent future accidents.
- Adequate supervision and control
- Pre-planning and organising, safety and progression of the work sequences and operations
- Don't handle substances without knowing the hazards.
- Don't use machinery if you are not trained to do so.
- Follow instructions and comply with safe working practices.
- Wear and use PPE correctly - do not abuse it.
- Do not remove guard rails or other safety devices.
- No horse-play on site.
- Never use defective equipment or machinery.
- Help to keep the workplace clean and tidy.
- Wash and dry your hands to remove substances from your skin.
- Report unsafe conditions or actions to your supervisor.
- Use correct tools and equipment for the job.
- Obey all safety rules and signs.
- Don't leave tools or equipment laying around which could trip others up.
- Always keep trailing leads tidy, do not overstretch them.

Questions:

1. Before using substances what must you? Answer: Check label for hazards of use.
2. If you saw an unsafe condition, what would you do? Answer: Stop it and report it to your supervisor
3. If you had an accident, how could it affect you?
4. What could be the result of removing guards from machinery?

SAFE ATTITUDES = SAFE ACTIONS = SAFE CONDITIONS