

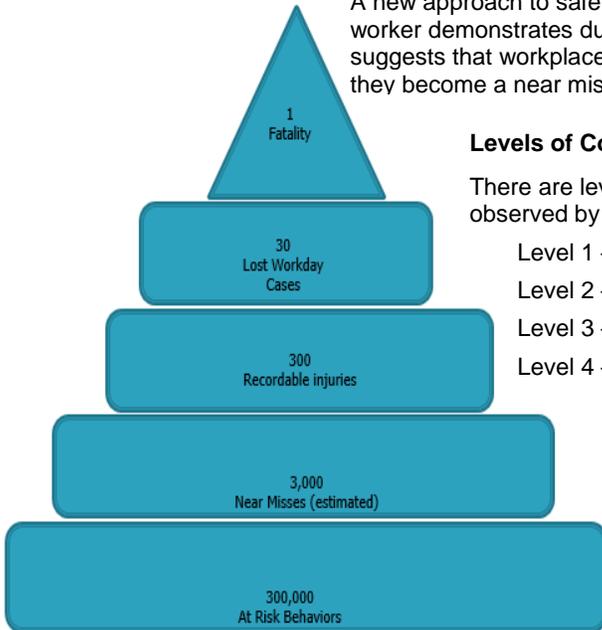


Safety Talk

Near Miss Incidents



A new approach to safety is behavioural based safety which incorporates at risk behaviours that a worker demonstrates during the tasks performed at the workplace as well as at home. This theory suggests that workplace parties have a huge opportunity to correct these at-risk behaviours before they become a near miss.



Levels of Commitment to Safety

There are levels of commitment through the behavior-based safety that can be observed by the supervisor within the work day.

- Level 1 – Comply to safety when it is convenient
- Level 2 – Comply to safety when we have to
- Level 3 – Believe in safety for themselves and their family
- Level 4 – Believe in safety for themselves, their family and their co-workers

Everyone is a blend of these various levels. The Question becomes "which level of commitment do we demonstrate most frequently?"

We create our culture by what we demonstrate personally and by what we reward and tolerate in others.

People will work to the level of safety that's expected.

A strong safety culture will begin when we start to make safety a habit. Creating a safe work environment is a personal issue as well as a corporate issue.

What is a Near Miss?

A Near Miss is an unplanned event that did not result in injury, illness, or damage – but had the potential to do so. Only a fortunate break in the chain of events prevented an injury, fatality or damage; in other words, a miss that was nonetheless very near.

Many safety activities are reactive and not proactive, and some organizations wait for losses to occur before taking steps to prevent a recurrence. Near miss incidents often precede loss producing events but may be overlooked as there was no harm (no injury, damage or loss). An organization may not have a reporting culture where workers are encouraged to report these close calls. Thus, many opportunities to prevent the incidents are lost.



Key Points of Near Misses

- Incidents occur every day at the workplace that could result in a serious injury or damage.
- A near-miss program may help prevent future incidents.
- One problem that companies must overcome is worker's fear of being blamed after reporting a near miss.
- Employers need to make the process of reporting a near miss as easy as possible



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