

A close call isn't just a scare – it's a warning sign worth acting on. This month, we're sharing resources to help you build a near-miss program to identify risks, prevent future incidents and strengthen your overall safety culture.

Which of the following best explains why near-miss reporting is considered a leading indicator of safety performance?

- A. It measures the total number of injuries that occurred during a specific period
- B. It identifies potential hazards and weaknesses before they result in actual incidents or injuries
- C. It determines whether employees follow all company policies
- D. It calculates the financial cost of workplace accidents

Answer at the end of the email.

KEY ELEMENTS OF NEAR-MISS REPORTING



Many serious workplace incidents are preceded by near-miss events that go unreported. A near miss is an event that could have caused injury, illness or damage but didn't – and it's one of the clearest signals that a hazard exists on your site.

Here's how a near-miss reporting program turns those warning signs into action:

- **Catches hazards early.** Employees see risks firsthand. A reporting program gives them a clear way to flag what they find before it leads to an incident.
- **Shifts from reactive to proactive.** Instead of investigating after an injury, your team addresses root causes before one occurs.
- **Gives management better data.** Near-miss reports reveal trends and patterns, helping you prioritize corrective actions and put resources where they matter most.
- **Strengthens your safety culture.** When employees see their observations lead to real changes and help prevent injuries to coworkers, they stay engaged.
- **Reduces costs and compliance risk.** Fewer incidents mean lower workers' compensation costs, less downtime, less equipment damage and fewer regulatory violations.

Check out these Toolbox Talks from Rockwood:

- [Employee Engagement](#)
- [Hazard Assessment](#)
- [Complacency](#)

SAFETY TIPS OF THE MONTH



Near-Miss Program Tips

Follow these tips to help establish an effective near-miss reporting program:

- **Keep it simple.** Create a reporting process that's easy to access and quick to complete.
- **Remove the fear factor.** Encourage reporting without blame or discipline. Many companies use anonymous drop boxes to make reporting easier.
- **Train your team.** Make sure employees know what constitutes as a near miss and why reporting matters.

- **Investigate every report.** Review all reported near misses to determine root causes.
- **Share what you find.** Communicate corrective actions and lessons learned. If your company has a Safety Committee, near-miss reports make a strong topic for monthly meetings.
- **Track trends over time.** Measure your program's effectiveness and look for patterns. Rockwood can provide Loss Runs to help identify injury trends.
- **Recognize participation.** Acknowledge employees who report near misses. It reinforces the behavior and keeps the program active.

TIPS AND RESOURCES



OSHA, MSHA and other resources:

- [Incident Investigation](#) | OSHA
- [Near-Miss Reporting](#) | National Safety Council
- [Near-Miss Reporting Policy Template](#) | OSHA



Streamery training videos

Promote safety with these videos available in your Streamery library – included with your policy:

- [Close Calls and Near Misses](#) – 19 min / Available in English and Spanish
- [Accident Investigation](#) – 13 min / Available in English and Spanish



Free Seat Belt Covers for Your Employees

Enforce employee seatbelt use with these high visibility seatbelt covers, courtesy of Rockwood.

Email: safetysolutions@rockwoodcasualty.com to request yours. Be sure to specify orange or yellow.

QUESTIONS? REACH OUT!

We're here to help you promote safety in the workplace. [Contact Rockwood Loss Control](#) for any support you need.

Thank you for your continued partnership,

Rockwood Loss Control Team
safetysolutions@rockwoodcasualty.com

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ANSWER



Which of the following best explains why near-miss reporting is considered a leading indicator of safety performance?

B. It identifies potential hazards and weaknesses before they result in actual incidents or injuries



(Missed a previous email? [Click here](#) to see an archive of previous months' safety emails on Rockwood's Loss Control website).