

Workplace Safety Group

February 2009

Monthly News e-Letter

NEW FOR 2009

WHMIS

Stand Alone Courses

- WHMIS
- WHMIS refresher
- Simduit -WHMIS French



SafeWork Academy

- Learn new skills!
- Earn a Certificate!
- Train for the future!
- Build your resume!
- Maximize your value!
- Be proactive!
- Become a resource!
- Take your abilities to the next level!

It's Your Responsibility to Report Close Calls!

Close calls occur in workplaces everywhere, every day. It's been estimated that for every serious injury, there may be as many as 600 close calls.

Letting unsafe situations go by without reporting them is being an accomplice to the next time a similar situation occurs without as fortunate an outcome. Imagine your feelings of guilt if a serious injury or fatality took place because the victim hadn't been told of the potential hazard that you personally had either avoided or witnessed previously!

Close calls can be caused by any number of conditions, either on their own or working in tandem. Here are a few examples:

- Poor equipment maintenance
- Failure to wear correct personal protective equipment
- Failure to lockout/tagout
- Falling, tripping or slipping as a result of poor housekeeping
- Ineffective/inadequate training and supervision

Sometimes a close call or "near miss" occurs without anyone even realizing it. Slips and falls are the third leading cause of disabling injuries in North America yet they are often attributed to "just being clumsy". Have you ever opened a door with someone else coming right at you from the other side? You or they could be carrying something hot, heavy or cumbersome which could lead to an injury. Perhaps your supervisor is unaware of this traffic hazard. It needs to be brought to his or her attention to see what can be done about it. Nothing can get done if these near misses aren't reported.

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L.P. Custom Machining Ltd. Fined
\$100,000 After Worker Injured



TSC Stores GP Inc. Fined \$75,000
Following Worker Injury



Dana Canada Corporation Fined
\$80,000 For Worker Injury



Lakeport Brewing GP Inc. Fined
\$50,000 After Worker Injured



Americana Resort Inc. fined
\$60,000 After Two Workers Injured



Constructor, Electrical Contractor
And Supervisor Fined A Total Of
\$100,000 After Worker Killed



The internal responsibility system indicates it is the supervisor's responsibility to look at immediate and underlying causes for incidents and develop action plans for prevention; however, it's the workers' responsibility to report close calls. In this way close call incidents can be minimized and eliminated.

If you've had a close call, don't just consider yourself lucky and carry on with your work without reporting the incident, take the time to report the incident. Safety has nothing to do with luck. Consider the close call a red flag warning that corrective action is necessary. Report all unsafe work conditions and practices to your supervisor.

It's February, the month of hearts and Valentines! While we all strive to make that one day special for those we hold close to our hearts, we here at Workplace Safety Group think of all those hearts that arrive at work every day. Our goal, through due diligence and workplace safety, is to help those hearts you hold most dear to return home safely every day!

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!



Questions, Concerns, Comments?
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