**Near Misses**

Near misses, how do near misses affect accidents (safety pyramid), why do near misses affect accidents (definition), Why is reporting near misses a must (Example/safety pyramid).

**The safety pyramid**: in 1931 H.W. Heinrich theorized that for every major accident there are 29 minor accidents and 300 near misses. This was confirmed by a study that Conoco Phillips done in 2003. Their findings were for every fatality there were 30 lost day injuries, 300 recordable injuries, 3,000 near misses, and 300,000 unsafe acts.

**Definition:** 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.

**Example**: Every day I have to walk into a warehouse that is high in forklift traffic. Instead of walking through the man door I enter through the equipment door. Everyday there are forklifts moving product in and out of the door at the same time I am entering the building. Every time this occurs it can be considered a near miss.

The forklift operators should be reporting this as a near miss. Why? Because there are unsafe acts happening creating a near miss. The unsafe act is walking into an area that has equipment traffic thinking it will yield to you/us, when the fact is it probably can’t see us, and the possibility exists that the pedestrian could get hit or run over, Causing bodily injury or Death.

**Summation:** It should now be clear whyreporting near misses and or unsafe behavior is crucial to help stop accidents. It is essential that every person take the responsibility to report near misses to their Supervisor and Safety. Remember that you are not ratting out somebody, but you may be saving their life. **Near Misses are a Sign.**