

HAZARDS AND NEAR MISS REPORTING

A GOOD CATCH!

1 RECOGNIZE
THE HAZARD

2 REMOVE
THE HAZARD

3 REPORT
THE HAZARD

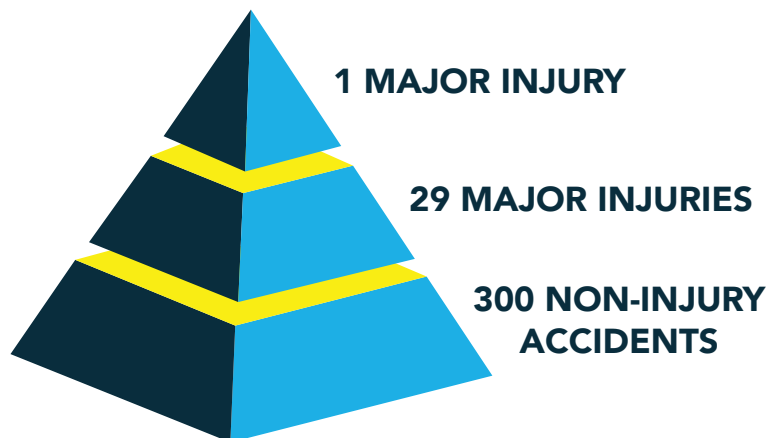


BC Forest Safety

Safety is **good** business

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An employee walks on the designated walkway into the mill yard but is wearing his hoodie up to keep his ears warm. He looks both ways but does not see the small forklift coming around the corner. The forklift narrowly misses the worker in the crosswalk but spills its load. Both workers frantically clean up the spill and go on their way thinking the other worker was at fault.

No one is hurt in this fictional scenario. However, the workers experienced a significant hazard/near-miss that might have seriously injured either one of them.

WHAT'S A NEAR MISS OR HAZARD?

A near miss is an event or hazard that does not result in injury, illness or damage, but it could have. In theory, there is a safety ratio between hazards & near misses and more serious events. Basically, for every 300 non-injury incidents, there are 29 minor injuries, and one serious injury.

Near misses happen in the sawmill industry regularly. We can identify and use these hazards and near misses as a tool to improve safety and prevent future incidents and serious injuries from occurring. With good reporting and investigation practices, these incidents can be avoided in future.

What are some examples of hazards/ near misses in a sawmill?

- A slippery surface on a walkway
- Tool slips or misuse
- Dropping a tool into operating equipment
- Missing or unsafe guard on machinery
- A large hole that isn't covered or protected
- A missing confined space sign
- Cords and hoses lying across catwalks
- A blocked emergency exit
- Blocked electrical switch gear

While it is important to remove hazards and protect others, it is just as important to report hazards and near misses, regardless of the severity. This ensures that the event is investigated and steps are taken to prevent a recurrence. Recurrence could result in a more serious injury or worse, a fatality.

Everyone owns the responsibility to report hazards and near misses or "**good catches**".

Treat a reported hazard or near miss as a "Good Catch" and avoid pointing fingers and playing the "blame game". Be thankful it was caught before it turned into something worse. These reports help greatly improve safety for everyone.

What are some additional hazards or near misses in your workplace?

What's the process for notification and reporting of hazards and near misses?