

Near-Miss Reporting In Schools



For every incident that occurs in the workplace, there are just as many, if not more, close calls. Maybe a student slips during arrival or is sent on the wrong bus at the end of the day. Or, perhaps an unknown individual is found wandering the school. Situations like these happen at every school and are referred to as near misses. Close calls are valuable lessons in safety.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRACKING NEAR MISSES

Above all, near misses are a valuable source of information. Near misses provide your school with an opportunity to identify hazards or weaknesses in your systems and correct them to prevent future incidents. In addition to helping organizations improve workplace safety, reporting near misses provides the following benefits:

Proactive monitoring—It's best to think of near misses as symptoms of undiscovered safety concerns. Near-miss reporting can help schools be proactive when it comes to identifying negative trends and safeguarding their students and staff.

Low-cost prevention—Having employees report near misses is affordable and one of the simplest ways to identify potential hazards. In contrast, schools which only take action after an accident occurs are more likely to incur major expenses.

Culture building—Near-miss reporting can help drive workplace culture in a positive direction. Reporting programs encourages staff involvement in school systems and operations and can engender a sense of ownership in running those systems.

Accident Theory and the Safety Triangle

Proactive monitoring and safety protocols can mitigate larger issues. Severe incidents typically occur after a number of smaller, less severe issues have already occurred.

This concept is referred to as the safety triangle. Effectively, this theory states that accidents occur in a fixed ratio and that, for every 300 near misses, there are typically 29 minor injuries and one major accident.



By tracking minor incidents, schools can reduce the probability of having major incidents. For a more detailed look at near-miss reporting and to discuss creating a near-miss reporting program for your school, reach out to First Fidelity Brokerage.



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