

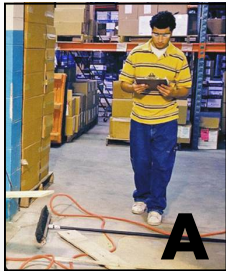
# SAFETY NEWS

JUNE 2016

## news & notes

### IDENTIFY THE HAZARD

Can your employees and supervisors correctly identify the potential safety hazards pictured below?



A



B



C



D



E

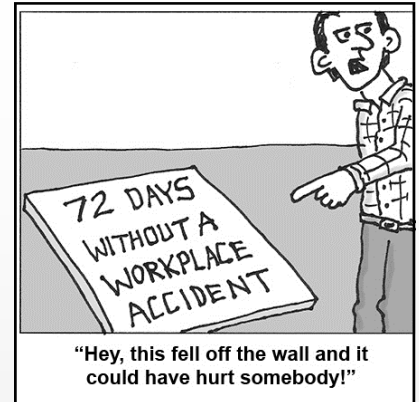
(Answers on reverse)

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## An accident waiting to happen

### Avoid accidents by investigating near misses

When was the last time you felt a surge of adrenaline — only to shake it off a few minutes later? Was there a time recently when you said, “We dodged a bullet there”? Have there been any incidents when you looked at what happened and thought, “That could have been a lot worse than it was”?



If so, you’ve likely suffered or seen a “near miss.” Some experts estimate that for every worker fatality, as many as **10,000 unsafe acts are committed**. If we identify and investigate these incidents, we may be able to prevent others that cause large-scale property damage, catastrophic environmental damage or serious injury or death to workers or members of the community.

#### Here’s what to be aware of:

- **Minor accidents or injuries.** If you’re using a saw and the work piece kicks back at you and causes a bruise, that accident may not be anything you think twice about. If you’re operating a forklift and run up against a barrier while you’re turning, you might think it was a simple matter of isolated operator error and let it go. But in both cases, you may have just been given a warning of a larger problem. Report these incidents so they can be investigated before serious injury or property damage occurs.
- **Incidents that slow the job down.** If something unplanned and undesired occurs that makes it more difficult for you to do your job, ask yourself whether something more serious is going on. Does the corrosion that slowed down your maintenance work, for example, indicate a larger problem?
- **Near misses.** Even if no one was hurt and nothing was damaged, could the incident have been more serious? Could someone have been injured, or could major damage have occurred? If you’d been standing in a different place, or passed through a moment later, would you be in the hospital now? Could the incident happen again?

Report minor incidents or near misses to your supervisor and describe what happened.

- **Who** was involved?
- **Where and when** did the incident take place?
- **What** exactly happened?
- **How** did it happen? *And perhaps most important,*
- **Why** did it happen? This last piece of information may be critical to preventing the incident from happening again.

Don’t stop once you have identified one cause of incident; most accidents have more than one cause, and it’s important to address them all.

**news & notes**

**STABLE STACKS**

When stacking loads, such as on pallets, it is important that the stacks do not fall over. This could cause an injury or damage materials. Here are some basic tips to help make your stacks more stable.

- ☑ **Put the heavy items on the bottom of the stack, and place lighter objects on top.** This seems obvious, but it is also often ignored. The lighter objects will be crushed by the weight of heavier objects, and the stack will begin to lean and eventually fall over if not corrected.
- ☑ **The same principle applies to large loads on top of small loads.** Unless the large pallet is perfectly balanced on top of the small pallet, the large pallet will cause the small pallet to lean one way and the stack will eventually fall.
- ☑ **Keep the stacks even.** Placing an item at a slight angle may cause the load to be off balance and start the stack leaning to the point where it could topple over. Make sure all items in a stack are lined up straight and centered on top of one another.
- ☑ **When stacking on pallets, make sure items are stacked within the confines of the pallet and not sticking out.** Objects sticking out of a stack into an aisle could be struck by a forklift, which could cause the stack to fall or a person walking down an aisle could bump into an item.



**Common causes of accidents at work**

**8 issues can happen in any workplace**

Consider this statistic: **80 out of every 100 accidents are the fault of the person involved in the incident.** Accidents can occur for many reasons; however, eight of the most common causes of workplace accidents have been identified by a recent article in *Reliable Plant* magazine.



**LIFTING.** LIFTING AN OBJECT THAT IS TOO HEAVY CAN LEAD TO MUSCLE SPRAIN, STRAIN OR TEAR. **ASK FOR HELP WITH OBJECTS THAT ARE DIFFICULT TO LIFT ALONE.** YOU CAN ALSO USE MATERIAL HANDLING AIDS.

**Fatigue.** Failing to take a break, especially to recover from physical labor, can lead to inattention and accidents.



**POOR LIGHTING.** INSUFFICIENT LIGHTING IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MANY **SLIP AND FALL INCIDENTS.** OSHA REQUIRES ADEQUATE LIGHTING IN ALL WORKPLACES, SO **REPORT LIGHTING ISSUES.**



**Dehydration.** Not drinking enough, especially in hot weather or hot environments, is a serious health risk. **Keep yourself hydrated by drinking water even if you're not yet thirsty.**



**Hazardous materials.** Improper handling of hazardous materials or not wearing personal protective equipment as required are common causes of illness.



**Workplace violence.** Violence continues to plague workplaces across diverse industries. About **550 people die each year from workplace violence.**



**Trips and falls.** Slips, trips and falls continue to be a leading cause of injury. Culprits include slick floors and high traffic corridors, improper footwear, rushing and inclement weather.

**Stress.** Stress has a huge impact on the human body and mind and on job performance. **Take advantage of any stress reduction opportunities that your organization offers.**