

PestSure Safety Tips

INSURING THE FUTURE OF PEST CONTROL

A five-minute training Series for Pest Management Professionals.

What is a "near miss?" Webster defines it as: "A result that is nearly, but not quite, successful." What does this mean to the pest control technician? It simply means that a serious accident *almost* occurred. When you trip or slip but don't fall, when you slam on your brakes and steer to the shoulder barely missing the vehicle in front of you, when you slip off the bottom step of the ladder rather than falling from higher up you have had a near miss. All of these situations could constitute a much more serious event. It's best to learn the lessons from these near misses before an injury occurs.

Statistics tell us that for every 300 near misses there is one serious injury. So what does this tell us about accidents? If you reduce the number of near misses, you will then reduce the number of injuries that happen. If we react to a near miss and correct our work method or condition now, we can greatly reduce the chance of serious injury.

Report Near Misses Before They Become Accidents:

- Once a near miss occurs, report it immediately. The potential for incidents exists everyday; so all employees must help identify them.
- If the near miss is a result of an unsafe condition, don't continue to work under that condition until the problem has been corrected.
- If the incident is a result of unsafe acts, be certain that everyone involved has been alerted and instructed on safe methods before they continue with the job.



Near Misses Are A Warning to be Shared with Everyone:

Letting a near miss go unreported provides an opportunity for a serious accident to occur. Correcting these actions or conditions will enhance the safety within your work group and provide a better working environment for everyone involved. If you are involved with or witness a near miss incident, remember that you or your co-worker may not get a second injury free chance to fix the problem. Respond to the warning and report the near miss so the serious accident can be prevented.