



North Carolina Wing Weekly Safety Blast



2018 - Topic #7 – A Close Look at Close Calls

Reason for this Blast:

There is danger in brushing off accidents that do not hurt, harm, or damage. However, when a “close call” happens, it should immediately send up a warning flag that something is wrong!

Safety Points:

- What to do after a close call or near miss:
 - Report the event!
 - Examine the facts and find out what is amiss.
 - Look for immediate and underlying causes:
 - An immediate cause may be an unsafe condition like mechanical failure or it could be an unsafe action by a member.
 - The underlying cause could be poor maintenance, a missing guard, crowded work area, or lack of training.
- Causes of an accident or near miss (more than one thing can be a contributing factor):
 - Equipment (example: unguarded machinery).
 - Environment (example: poor lighting or high noise level).
 - People (example: procedures not understood or not followed).
 - Leadership (example: shortcuts have been allowed, or PPE not being worn is accepted).
- Important Reminders:
 - All incidents should be reported so that Incident report can be completed in the Safety Information and Reporting System (SIRS).
 - During an investigation, solutions should be sought to prevent the accident from occurring again and recommendations made to the chain of command.
 - Solutions may involve new guarding, additional training, different PPE, etc.
 - Members should inspect their work areas for unsafe conditions or unsafe actions and, if found, report them.



MAIN DISCUSSION POINT OF THIS SAFETY BLAST

Hazard awareness is a key to preventing accidents before they happen.

Take steps to eliminate hazards as soon as they are discovered.