

# MAFES Dawg Tracks



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Learn From Close Calls



At some point in all of our working lives, we have had a close call or accident. Maybe we don't remember or didn't take it serious enough at the time of the happening. Close calls come in many different forms, such as slipping on a greasy floor, slipping on an implement ladder that is laden with mud, or maybe getting too close to a power line. Regardless of how our close call incident happened, we need to stop, review what happened, and see how we can prevent it from happening again. We know that the next time it may not be a close call, but an actual accident.

We should orient our employees and ourselves to report close calls to supervision and/or management so that the cause or reason for the close call can be corrected. Many employees may be reluctant to report close calls for fear of being ostracized or ridiculed by other employees. Some people may be slow to report a close call for fear of having too much time in oral investigations or reluctance to spoiling a safety record.

## THE DANGERS OF CLOSE CALLS:

We may think little of a minor incident, but we all know that too many times minors lead to majors if not reported and the hazard eliminated. Unsafe working conditions, unsafe employees work habits, improper use of equipment, equipment in need of repair or parts replacement, and untrained personnel on equipment can all lead to injuries or death.

We should encourage all employees to report any area that they think could cause an accident or incident. We should also orient all employees to practice this policy as a positive to reduce the chance of actual accidents.

## SELF PROTECTION:

### Set the Example

In any situation involving employees, we should act and conduct ourselves, as we would like others to act and conduct themselves. Protect others as we work together. If you are in a situation with a fellow employee and a near accident or incident occurs, stop, and with that person, analyze the situation and determine how it can be avoided again. If you have a defective tool that might cause an accident, tag it and report it to your supervisor. If you spot a problem on an implement that might get someone hurt or interfere with the task that the implement is made for, then you should report it as soon as possible.

Resolve to use the safety aids that have been provided. If you come across an area that needs a safety feature, report it to the manager for action.

In summation, we should convey to all employees that it is a serious mistake if they have a close call or see a defective tool or equipment part and don't report it. This would not be in a mode of reprimand, but one that is an encouragement to enhance the safety of all employees.

We should treat any close call seriously and continue to encourage all of our folks to let us know when they see something that is possibly unsafe.

**A CLOSE CALL REPORTED  
TODAY IS THE ACCIDENT  
THAT DOES NOT HAPPEN  
TOMORROW !**

forget the hearse with  
safety first!

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