



The Porcelain Press

NSWC Indian Head Division
Safety Department Newsletter

11th InSTALLment

Distributed to a Restroom near you

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Close Calls - A Forgotten Message

How easy we find it to push aside or to forget a close call incident. This is because of our ability to rationalize that nothing serious happened. But if we took the time and closely investigated each close call, we would find a message telling us there's much more to it.

For example, a young mother notices her toddler carrying a small object. When she stops the child to see what the object is, she finds it to be a bottle of prescription medicine. She quickly takes the bottle away and corrects the child on the potential dangers. She says to herself, "That sure was a close one," and then goes on with her day.

The mother failed to see the message. The problem wasn't only the wrong-doing by the child and the potential harm that could have occurred. The fact that the child was able to obtain the bottle in the first place which means the storage area may be in a location easily reached by the child must be considered.

The point here is that all close calls are sending messages of potential danger and injury. All close calls need to be thoroughly investigated to understand what happened, why it happened and what needs to be done to prevent reoccurrence.

We should never just push aside a close call, no matter how minor. We should never just say, "Wow, that was close", and then quickly forget it. We're too valuable and too important to take things so lightly when it comes to our health and well-being.

Close calls serve as warnings that something is wrong. They should always be reported and taken seriously.

Safety is so Elemental.....

Subliminal Safety Man Says..... figure out the code to solve the following safety message and E-mail it to me at raymond.geckle@navy.mil by 26 November 2007. Ten entries will be randomly selected from all correct submissions to receive a safety award. Check your work periodically to make sure you are getting the right answer.

71-6-19 53-16 74-1-85 1-A-15-15-E-7-16 74-1-E-7

16-A-26-T-39 15-75-15-18-85-53-8-7 M-E-E-T-16

8-15-15-8-R-T-92-7-53-T-39

Ask the Safety Wiz

*Send your questions to the Safety Wizard at
raymond.geckle@navy.mil*

Dear Wiz: Does Safety really mean that I need to be committed 100% of the time? - *AL T. Time*

Dear Time: Having a personal commitment to safety and keeping it strong are more important than any of our safety programs, procedures, or rules. In fact, programs, procedures, and rules depend on a strong personal commitment to safety. You can keep your commitment to safety strong by remembering the commitment is for you. If you allow things to happen or other people to determine the strength of your commitment, it is likely to fluctuate a lot. To keep your commitment strong all the time, stay focused on your personal safety and those things you do that affect it. Promise yourself to work on it and keep that promise. You'll be glad you did.

Dear Wiz: I have noticed that some work areas have gone a real long time without a work-related injury or accident. Are they really that safety conscious or have they just been lucky? - *Slip R. Fall*

Dear Fall: At some point in each workplace luck ends and strong safety practices take over. We need to ask why these workplaces outpace others and adopt these practices.

- * Do they have different type of flooring that helps prevent trips and falls?
- * Do they have an active workplace safety committee?
- * Does their leadership play an active role in the safety programs?
- * Are personnel held accountable for unsafe actions?
- * Do they raise and solve safety related issues quickly?

It's not luck that I don't get struck by lightning when I seek shelter from the storm. In the same way, these work areas are putting themselves into a position to succeed. It is just not that visible.