

Near Misses

A near miss is an accident or other incident that did not injure anyone or damage property but could have caused serious injury or property damage. For example, a near miss could involve:

- a worker almost falling from slipping on an icy patch on the ground.
- a crane's load swinging and almost hitting a rigger.

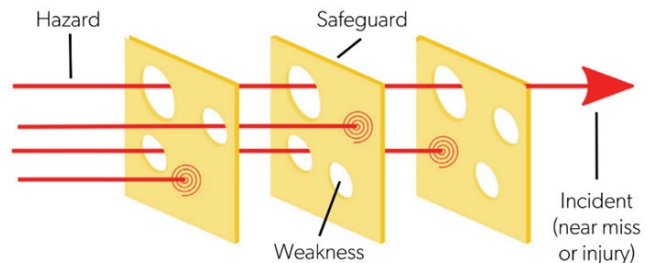
The difference between a near miss and an accident can be as little as a millimetre, a fraction of a second, or chance.

It's important for workers to report near misses to a supervisor or the employer. And under the law, employers must investigate near misses and correct the unsafe conditions that allowed them to happen.

The Swiss Cheese Model

The Swiss cheese model is a way of showing how injuries and near misses can happen or be prevented in the workplace. In the model, a series of safeguards or barriers are in place to prevent hazards from reaching workers.

These safeguards represent the various safety layers the employer has put in place to protect workers. Each safeguard has unintended weaknesses or holes — like Swiss cheese. Usually, the safeguards prevent incidents. But if enough holes line up, the hazard can make it through all the safeguards and cause an incident (a near miss or an injury).



The Swiss cheese model

By User:BenAveling - File:Swiss cheese model.svg, CC BY-SA 4.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=133912327>

Why Report Near Misses?

Near misses can indicate problems in the employer's health and safety program (risk controls, training, personal protective equipment [PPE], etc.). When workers report near misses, the employer and supervisors can use that information to correct the problems (i.e., fill the holes in the Swiss cheese) and help ensure that the near miss does not happen again.

Reporting and investigating near misses is necessary to:

- keep workers and worksites safe and productive.
- demonstrate due diligence.
- meet workplace health and safety requirements.
- identify, track, and correct hazards.

By taking prompt, effective action on near misses, employers, supervisors and workers can help reduce the probability of the holes lining up and resulting in near misses, injuries, or property damage.

Reference: *Workers Compensation Act* [Section 69](#)

Project: Address:

Employer: Supervisor:

Date: Time: Shift:

Number in crew: Number attending:

Other safety concerns or suggestions:

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Record of those attending:

Name: (please print)		Signature:	Company:
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
13.			
14.			
15.			

Manager's remarks:

.....

Manager: Supervisor:

(Signature)

(Signature)

For more information on health and safety requirements for crane operations in B.C., refer to the *Workers Compensation Act* and the OHS Regulation at worksafebc.com.