Near-Misses Matter: Building a Culture That Reports and Learns Picture This



This image shows a worker stepping back from a job site area just moments after a heavy tool drops from an overhead platform and crashes onto the floor. No one is injured, but the impact is loud, and the worker freezes for a second, realizing how close the incident came to striking someone below. The area had no barricade, the tool wasn’t secured, and the task was being done quickly without a full hazard check.

This is a near miss—an event that didn’t cause injury this time but easily could have. Near misses are not “lucky breaks.” They are early warnings that the same conditions could lead to serious injuries or fatalities the next time. A strong safety culture treats near misses as urgent learning opportunities, not something to ignore or hide. Always report close calls, fix hazards immediately, and share lessons learned so the next incident doesn’t become a tragedy.