FIU Near Miss Reporting Initiative

What is a Near Miss?

Near Misses (also known as a "close call", "narrow escape", "near collision", or "near hit") are events that did not result in injury, damage or illness. They are often overlooked because there is no harm (injury, damage or loss). However, overlooking near misses results in lost opportunities to prevent future incidents. Often the most serious or fatal events are proceeded by near misses.

Below are examples of what could be considered a "near miss":
- A high-traffic walk surface that becomes slippery when it rains, and no one falls.
- Tripping on uneven pavement on the sidewalk near the parking garage
- Chemical fires within a fume hood without causing damage, and put out with extinguisher
- Material catching on fire in a laser cutter while working, but it's contained within machine
- Projectile machine parts from equipment in an empty machine shop classroom
- Stumbling over an uncovered hole in the street or side-walk

Why Should I Report Near Misses?

- Reporting encourages proactivity by facilitating awareness and communication. During a near miss, the injury/incident was avoided, but what could be changed to ensure it does not result in an injury/incident? Was the potential safety hazard addressed? Is anyone else aware of the issue?
- Reporting helps to identify safety gaps and faulty systems. Sharing this information will encourage FIU to focus on safety trends and issues identified by the university community, and help drive the development of new programs, procedures and initiatives.
- Reports can be used as lessons-learned or safety moments. Near misses are real-world scenarios that should be shared for learning experiences, promote awareness and discussion among the university community, and encourage others to share their experiences without judgment or blame.
  - "Peer-to-peer interventions can achieve buy-in, trust, and rapport in creating effective change in safety culture." – Safe Science: Promoting a Culture of Safety in Academic Chemical Research (National Academy of Science).
- Reporting allows individuals to contribute to their own safety and the safety of their peers by being a part of the solution. It gives a voice to FIU community - students, employees, and visitors – on issues that are not always noticeable, and it encourages the community to engage in proactively finding solutions.

How Do I Report a Near Miss?

There are three ways to report a near miss at FIU:
- **CALL** FIU-SAFE (348-7233)
- **EMAIL** safe@fiu.edu
- **SUBMIT** the EH&S online safety report: https://ehs.fiu.edu/report

IMPORTANT! When submitting a report, be as detailed as possible. Make sure to include what happened, what actions were taken, and suggestions to prevent future incidents.

What Happens with the Reported Information?

The information shared in the near miss reports will be used to drive efforts in continuous safety improvement, hazard identification, and accident/incident prevention at FIU. Issues will be shared with the University Safety Council, which consists of representatives from various areas of the university who are committed to identifying gaps, improving processes, and creating solutions. Information will not be used for retaliation purposes or for assigning blame to others. The ultimate goal is to maintain a safe and healthy environment for FIU students, employees and visitors.