

# NEAR MISS / HAZARD ALERT REPORTING



*“I could have **saved a life** that day  
...but I **chose** to look the other way”*

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO REPORT NEAR MISSES AND HAZARDS?

We all know Near Miss/Hazard Alert reporting is very important because it helps us to be aware of situations that could lead to someone getting badly hurt. Taking action and submitting a card can help ensure safety improvements are made and also help make sure similar hazardous situations are avoided right across the business. So we all need to ask ourselves, if near miss reporting is so important **why is it that the rate of reporting is currently falling away?** Have our standards really improved so much that there is nothing to report? Are there no unsafe behaviours or significant risks on our sites to draw attention to? Maybe! Or is it that sometimes we are choosing to ‘look the other way’ or not encouraging colleagues to submit a card when they’ve seen something.

You may recognise the quote at the top of this page, it’s from a well know health and safety poem (see next page). We have experienced the truth in these words right here In CEMEX in the UK ..... **the following tragic fatal incidents in our business were all preceded by near misses:**



- A 28 year old employee was blown through a wall and fell to his death following a release of pressure from a processing plant .... months earlier a similar pressure build up had caused the plant access doors to buckle
- A contractor, also 28, died when he fell from a scaffold when it was struck by a fall of material; he was not clipped on. None of his colleagues had stepped in to suggest that he clipped on, despite only days earlier a similar fall of material damaging the scaffold.
- A 64 year old employee, with 15 years’ service, was crushed by un-isolated automated machinery when he inadvertently activated a sensor. A couple of weeks previously, while cleaning up, a broom was snapped in half by the same equipment when it triggered the same sensor, sadly this wasn’t reported.

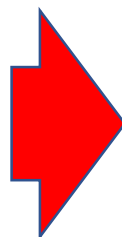
**Incidents like these can be prevented if we ensure near misses and hazards are reported, thoroughly investigated, and the corrective actions implemented across the operations. We all have a moral duty to STEP IN and report all hazards and near misses so that lessons can be learnt before anyone is injured.**

## HOW TO REPORT A NEAR MISS OR HAZARD:

If you see a hazard or near miss, please take immediate action to deal with it, providing you are not putting yourself at risk. Report all hazards and near misses to managers and supervisors and ensure they are recorded, either via the card system or directly into our incident reporting tool, INTELEX.

## REMEMBER:

- If you see something unsafe
- If someone is behaving unsafely
- If you can’t follow a safe system of work
- If you haven’t had feedback from a Near Miss / Hazard report



**THINK** - The next life that gets saved could be yours .....

## **I Chose to Look The Other Way**

I could have saved a life that day,  
But I chose to look the other way.  
It wasn't that I didn't care,  
I had the time, and I was there.  
But I didn't want to seem a fool,  
Or argue over a safety rule.  
I knew he'd done the job before,  
If I spoke up, he might get sore.  
The chances didn't seem that bad,  
I'd done the same, He knew I had.  
So I shook my head and walked on by,  
He knew the risks as well as I.  
He took the chance, I closed an eye,  
And with that act, I let him die.  
I could have saved a life that day,  
But I chose to look the other way.  
Now every time I see his wife,  
I'll know, I should have saved his life.  
That guilt is something I must bear,  
But it isn't something you need share.  
If you see a risk that others take,  
That puts their health or life at stake.  
The question asked, or thing you say,  
Could help them live another day.  
If you see a risk and walk away,  
Then hope you never have to say,  
I could have saved a life that day,  
But I chose, to look the other way.



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