

# EC SAFETY SOLUTIONS NEWSLETTER



Topic of the Month – Reporting of Incidents, Accidents and Near Misses: May 2024

## Welcome:

To the latest edition of the EC Safety Solutions monthly newsletter. In this issue, we look at a critical aspect of workplace safety: reporting of incidents, accidents and near misses.

As always, we hope you find this newsletter useful and welcome any feedback you may have. We would also like to encourage readers to actively contribute to the newsletter by providing company updates or by sharing your good news stories or safety initiatives.

### Defining and Differentiating Incidents, Accidents, and Near Misses:

**Incidents:** In the realm of workplace safety, an 'incident' is a broad term that encompasses any unplanned event that could have, or did, lead to injury, damage, or loss. Incidents include both accidents and near misses. They are the indicators of potential hazards in the workplace that, if ignored, can escalate into more serious situations.

**Accidents:** An 'accident' is a type of incident that results in physical harm or injury to a person or damage to property. Accidents are the incidents where the potential risk becomes a reality, often prompting immediate action and investigation to prevent recurrence.

**Near Misses:** A 'near miss' refers to an incident that, under slightly different circumstances, could have resulted in harm or damage. These are critical warning signs and learning opportunities. Near misses are often overlooked, yet they provide invaluable insights into existing workplace hazards without the cost of injury or damage.



Accidents and near misses are not merely inconveniences; they represent critical junctures where lessons can be learned and proactive measures can be taken to enhance safety and prevent future incidents.

### Here's why reporting them is essential:

- 1. Promoting a Safety Culture:** When employees feel comfortable reporting accidents and near misses, it fosters a culture of safety. Everyone plays a role in maintaining a safe working environment, and the reporting of incidents encourages proactive measures to prevent future occurrences.
- 2. Identifying Hazards:** Reporting incidents helps identify potential hazards in the workplace. Whether it's a faulty piece of equipment or an unsafe work procedure, identifying these hazards early allows for timely intervention and mitigation.
- 3. Preventing Future Incidents: Learning** from past mistakes is key to preventing future incidents. By analysing accident reports and near misses, we can implement corrective actions and preventive measures to reduce the likelihood of similar incidents occurring.
- 4. Compliance with Regulations:** Reporting accidents and near misses is a legal requirement. Under [The Social Security Regulations 1979](#) By adhering to reporting protocols, we ensure compliance with safety regulations and avoid potential prosecution or fines.
- 5. Protecting Lives and Assets:** Above all, reporting of incidents is about protecting lives and assets. Every accident or near miss has the potential to cause harm to employees and damage to property. Timely reporting allows us to take swift action to minimize these risks.

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## What can you do to help

- **Report** all accidents, injuries, and near misses, no matter how minor they may seem.
- **Encourage** open communication about safety concerns with your colleagues and supervisors.
- **Participate** in safety training programs to stay informed about best practices and procedures.
- **Remember**, safety is everyone's responsibility. By reporting accidents and near misses, we contribute to a safer and healthier work environment for ourselves and our colleagues.

### HSE Figures show that during 2022/2023:

- There were **561,000** Workers that sustained a non-fatal injury according to self-reports from the Labour Force Survey in 2022/23
- An additional **60,645** non-fatal injuries reported by employers in 2022/23 under RIDDOR.
- Injuries resulting in over 7 days absence **124,000** and a further **437,000** injuries with up to 7 days absence.
- Of the above **32%** were as a result of slips, trips or fall, **17%** occurred through lifting, handling and carrying, whilst being struck by a moving object accounted for **11%** with falls from height and acts of violence both at **8%**.

Are you prepared to act if an accident was to occur:

The [Health and Safety \(First Aid\) Regulations 1981](#) require all employers to make arrangements to ensure their employees receive immediate attention if they are injured or taken ill at work.

To ensure your team receive immediate treatment Why not book onto one of our fully accredited [First Aid at Work courses](#).



### Job Vacancy - Clearwater Cleaning Kent

Mould and Damp Treatment Operative  
Call James Sheen on 01634 681885 for more info

### **In the News**

- [Mental Health Awareness Week – 13 – 19 May 2024](#)
- [Company fined after worker fractures skull](#)
- [Aviation company fined after worker death at Heathrow Airport](#)
- [Director jailed for failing to protect workers from asbestos exposure](#)
- [Flexible Working: Understanding the New Regulation](#)  
[www.ecsafetysolutions.com](http://www.ecsafetysolutions.com)

### **Useful Resources:**

- [HSE Publication First Aid at Work](#)
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrence Regulations [RIDDOR](#)
- [Summary of Statistics for Great Britain 2023](#)
- [Managing Sick Leave and Return to Work](#)

Remember all our retained clients also have access to an electronic incident reporting form direct from your individual portal.

### **EC Safety Solutions Updates:**

- 55 x Construction site inspections
- 22 x Office compliance audits
- 8 x Fire Risk Assessments
- Numerous client safety meetings
- 4 x First Aid and 3 x Fire Marshal courses
- 5 x New Clients