

You Should Profit by The Lesson of "Near Accidents"

A "NEAR ACCIDENT" may be defined as a happening, the nature of which is dangerous to persons, but which did not result in injury owing to the fortunate absence of a man from a particular spot, or to his quickness, or to the merest other chance, but the recurrence of which is always a peril—a peril which should be abolished by proper care.

A familiar illustration of a "near accident" is the case of a person caught between two trains traveling in opposite directions on different tracks, but who escaped death or injury by lying down between the tracks. There are many other such instances of escaped injury, inside as well as outside the industrial shop. Tools and materials flopping from scaffolds and roofs but striking no one; ladders falling or slipping with men who land unhurt, vehicles skidding and just missing pedestrians or other vehicles—all these are common occurrences.

These are but a few of the many instances that will suggest themselves to the average reader, but in every instance of this kind there is a lesson from which every one should profit. "Near Accidents" are a fruitful source of suggestion, for precautions to be observed, and for rules to be formulated for the avoidance of dangerous practices.

Regrettable as it may be, however, the fact remains that too little attention is paid to "near accidents." It sometimes seems to require actual accidents to startle us sufficiently. This should not be so. There is just as much instruction to be had from "Near Accidents" as from actual accidents. "Safety First" work is a study and prevention of accident causes, and it should not require the theft of a horse to make you realize the importance of locking the barn.



GOOD SAFETY WORK IS SEEING THAT THERE IS A LOCK ON THE BARN DOOR BEFORE THE ATTEMPT TO STEAL THE HORSE IS MADE

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