



GREEN BRIEFING

SEPTEMBER 2025 EDITION

“Cost to Workers: ZERO. Benefit: LIFETIME”

Courtesy: GMS

Till Date

752

Training Sessions

11,521

Workers Trained

69

Topics Covered



UNDERSTANDING WHY NEAR MISS REPORTING MATTERS

Every workplace incident tells a story. Sometimes the outcome is serious and leads to injury or damage. Other times, the result is different only by chance. A heavy plate slips but stops short of hitting anyone. A spark lands close to oil residue without igniting. These moments are near misses. No one is hurt, but the warning is clear.

Dr. Anand Hiremath, CEO of the Sustainable Ship and Offshore Recycling Program (SSORP), explains the core message:



“Every near miss reported is a potential accident prevented. When workers speak up about unsafe situations, they create the foundation of a safer workplace.”



Near miss reporting is more than filling out a form. It is a way of sharing awareness across the yard. When one person reports, everyone learns. When reports are ignored, the same risk may appear again, possibly with serious results.

WHAT IS A NEAR MISS

A near miss is any unplanned event that did not cause harm but could have. The difference between a near miss and an accident is only the outcome. The risk and the hazard are the same.

Example: A worker is cutting steel near a tank that still has oil residue. If the residue catches fire, it is an accident. If it does not, it is a near miss. The condition that caused danger remains unchanged until someone acts.

Near misses should never be dismissed as harmless. They are safety information in its purest form. Each report points directly to a weakness that needs correction before it becomes an accident.



THE VALUE OF LEARNING FROM CLOSE CALLS

Every near miss report gives management and workers a chance to fix problems before injury occurs. It also strengthens awareness and teamwork on the yard.



“When I reported that a lifting sling slipped but did not fall, the team checked it and replaced the hook. Later we found deep wear marks that could have failed any time. Reporting that day may have saved someone’s life.”

- Vishal Patel, Yard Worker, Alang

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Mr. Rahul Singh, SSORP Coordinator in Alang, adds,

“Near misses are free lessons. They tell us where the next accident could happen without anyone being hurt. The only mistake is ignoring them.”

Yards that actively collect near miss reports often see a steady reduction in accidents. The more openly workers share what almost went wrong, the fewer surprises remain in the system.

COMMON REASONS NEAR MISSES GO UNREPORTED

Many workers hesitate to report near misses. Some believe that nothing serious happened and there is no need to mention it. Others fear blame or think management will not take it seriously.

Creating a fair reporting environment removes these barriers. Workers must know that reporting is not punishment but protection. The focus must always be on finding the cause, not assigning fault.





“When a worker hides an incident because he fears blame, the entire team loses the chance to learn. Reporting should be safe and encouraged at all levels.”

- Mr. Amrish Pandey, SSORP Coordinator in Alang

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Supervisors play a key role in this. Their reaction sets the tone. If they respond positively and thank workers for reporting, it sends a strong message that honesty is valued more than silence.

FROM REPORT TO ACTION

For near miss reporting to work, every report must lead to action. Workers need to see that their effort brings visible results. A broken step repaired, a faulty wire replaced, or a new control measure introduced because of a report strengthens confidence in the system.

Corrective actions from near-miss investigations should follow the hierarchy of controls. Eliminating the hazard is always the best outcome, followed by engineering and administrative controls, before relying on PPE.

Muhammad Usman, SSORP Coordinator in Pakistan, emphasizes this link:

“Workers must see change after they report. When they know their message led to real improvement, they keep participating. Reporting becomes a habit, not a formality.”

Supervisors should provide feedback to the reporting worker. A simple update, such as “The hook you reported was replaced”, shows that the system is functioning. This closes the communication loop and builds long-term trust.





“Each report deserves a response. Workers should see that what they share leads to real change on the ground.”

– Mr. Farid Uddin, Yard Owner, Chittagong

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HOW TO REPORT A NEAR MISS

Reporting a near miss is straightforward. The process must be clear, quick, and accessible to every worker.

1. Ensure the area is safe before reporting.
2. Inform the immediate supervisor or safety officer verbally.
3. Record the incident using the near miss reporting form or logbook.
4. Provide essential details such as:
 - o Date and time of the event
 - o Exact location (yard, vessel, section)
 - o Description of what happened
 - o Unsafe condition or contributing factor
 - o Immediate action taken

Reports should be written in simple language. Supervisors can assist workers who find it difficult to write. Digital systems or mobile apps can also be used if available.





MAKING REPORTING PART OF DAILY WORK

Near miss reporting should not wait for the end of the shift or week. It works best when integrated into daily briefings and toolbox talks. During these short meetings, supervisors can ask whether anyone experienced or observed a near miss.

Encouraging real-time reporting keeps awareness high. It also allows hazards to be corrected before the next job starts.

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At first, we used to think reporting was only for accidents. After SSORP training, we understood that even small slips or sparks need to be shared. Now, we talk about them every morning before work.”

– Shabbir Ahmed, Yard Worker, Chittagong

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This approach builds teamwork and makes safety everyone's shared responsibility.





OVERCOMING FEAR OF REPORTING

A strong safety culture depends on trust. Workers must feel confident that speaking up will not lead to blame or punishment. Yard managers should make this clear through both words and actions.

Workers should have multiple options for reporting near misses: verbally, through suggestion drop-box forms, or even anonymously, to encourage open participation without fear.

One effective method is to recognize and thank those who report near misses. Publicly appreciating them during meetings encourages others to come forward.

Dr. Anand explains,

“No one should ever be punished for reporting an unsafe condition. A good report is a sign of care, not of fault. Recognition and respect are the right responses.”

Posters and brief announcements can highlight improvements made from previous reports. Visibility of results reinforces belief in the process.





FROM NEAR MISS TO ACCIDENT PREVENTION

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“Every near miss is part of the accident prevention cycle:

**Observation Reporting Investigation
Corrective Action Review.
This cycle ensures hazards are systematically
eliminated before they cause harm.”**

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Each near miss shows that safety barriers almost failed. Analyzing these events helps identify weak points in the system.



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For example:

- A worker nearly trips over a loose cable. The action is to improve housekeeping and secure cables permanently.
- A torch flame flares near an oxygen hose. The action is to review hose connections and introduce regular leak checks.
- A plate slips from a sling. The action is to inspect lifting gear and retrain rigging crews.

By recording and reviewing these cases, patterns become visible. Repeated near misses in the same location or task highlight where deeper corrective action is needed



“A near miss is a signal. It tells you where to focus attention before something worse happens. The earlier you act, the safer the workplace becomes.”

- Mr. Zamil Uddin, SSORP Coordinator in Bangladesh

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TRAINING AND AWARENESS

Training strengthens the habit of reporting. When workers understand why reporting matters, they are more likely to do it.

SSORP's training sessions include practical exercises where workers review real examples of near misses from previous months. They discuss what went wrong, what was done afterward, and how to prevent recurrence.

These discussions create awareness and give workers confidence that their reports contribute to real change. Supervisors are also trained to guide and support workers through the reporting process.





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“During training, we saw how one report about a gas leak stopped a future fire. That made me realize reporting is not extra work, it is part of saving lives.”

- Rahman Khan, Yard Worker, Gadani

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RECOGNITION AND FEEDBACK

Recognition is one of the strongest motivators for consistent reporting. When a worker's observation prevents harm, that contribution should be acknowledged



Simple methods such as mentioning the worker's name in a briefing, posting appreciation on notice boards, or issuing a certificate are enough to build pride and participation. Mr. Rahul Singh adds,

“A thank you can go a long way. Workers who see that their reports are valued will always keep an eye open for danger.”

Feedback must also flow both ways. Management should share what actions were taken in response to reports. This shows transparency and accountability, strengthening cooperation between supervisors and workers.

ROLE OF MANAGEMENT IN PROMOTING REPORTING

Managers influence how safety is practiced every day. Their behaviour determines whether workers feel supported in raising safety concerns. Yard leaders should:

- Encourage open communication and active listening.
- Review near miss reports regularly.
- Assign corrective actions promptly.
- Share lessons learned with all teams.

By taking ownership of near miss management, managers set an example that safety is not a slogan but an operating principle.

Dr. Anand states,

“When management treats near miss reports seriously, it sends a message that every observation matters. The goal is not to avoid blame but to avoid harm.”

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE SAFETY CULTURE

A culture of near miss reporting grows over time. It depends on consistent messages, supportive leadership, and continuous improvement.

When workers and supervisors both value reporting, safety becomes part of everyday practice. The process strengthens awareness, improves teamwork, and reduces the chance of serious incidents.



Over months, small improvements accumulate. Ladders get checked more often. Tools are maintained regularly. Fire checks become routine. Each small action contributes to a safer workplace.



“We used to think accidents were bad luck. Now we understand that near misses are warnings. Reporting them gives us control over our own safety.”

- Abdul Sattar, Yard Worker, Alang

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CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT THROUGH REPORTING

The information collected from near miss reports should never be stored and forgotten. It must be reviewed periodically to identify trends and repeat issues.

Monthly safety meetings can include a short section summarizing the number of near misses reported and the corrective actions taken. This keeps everyone aware that reporting has measurable impact.

SSORP encourages all yards to integrate near miss analysis into their risk assessments and toolbox talks. This ongoing evaluation keeps the focus on proactive prevention rather than reactive response.

Near miss reporting is not about paperwork or fault finding. It is about awareness, learning, and teamwork. Each report tells a story that can guide others to work safely.

Dr. Anand Hiremath, CEO of SSORP, concludes,

“Reporting near misses is one of the most effective ways to stop accidents before they happen. It takes awareness, honesty, and care. Every worker who reports contributes directly to the safety of others. Together, we create workplaces where everyone returns home safe each day.”





“ **Safety starts with attention
and grows through action.** ”

Dr. Anand Hiremath at: anand@ssorp.net



This training is provided FREE of cost to workers, proudly sponsored by GMS under the Sustainable Ship & Offshore Recycling Program (SSORP).

ROUND-UP OF MONTHLY TRAINING ACTIVITIES – SIGNIFICANCE OF REPORTING NEAR MISS

Country	Training No.	Yard	Course Date	No. of Trainees
 Bangladesh	738	S. H. Enterprise	03/09/2025	6
	741	Mother Steel Ltd.	08/09/2025	25
	744	Chittagong Ship Breaking & Recycling Industries	13/09/2025	20
	745	Janata Steels Ltd.	14/09/2025	17
	746	Asadi Steels	17/09/2025	5
	749	Z. H. Steel Ltd.	20/09/2025	15
 India	739	Leela Ship Recycling Pvt. Ltd	04/09/2025	12
	740	R K Industries Unit II LLP.	04/09/2025	10
	742	Shree Ram Vessel Scrap Pvt. Ltd	10/09/2025	19
	743	J.K. Industries	13/09/2025	14
	747	Leela Responsible Recycling LLP.	19/09/2025	39
	748	Sagar Laxmi Ship Breakers.	19/09/2025	11
 Pakistan	750	Jamaluddin & Co	22/09/2025	12
	751	Prime Ship Breakers	22/09/2025	22
	752	S A Traders	22/09/2025	12





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