

Reporting Accidents

I have had a very minor accident at work, should I report it?

Yes, you should. You may think that as it is only a minor incident it is not worth noting, and you may not want to make a fuss. But by reporting minor accidents and “near misses”, it will build up a picture which will help your union reps and managers to keep you safe at work.

Employers and risk assessments

Employers have a legal duty to protect the safety and health of all their employees. Part of this duty requires them to assess the hazards and risks that their workers are exposed to, and to have adequate precautions in place. These risk assessments have to be revised when evidence suggests that they are no longer valid. Reports of incidents, even though minor or “near miss”, can highlight deficiencies in the risk assessments, and the employer has to remedy this.

Safety Representatives

Safety reps can do a valuable job in reducing accidents and injuries at work, but to be effective, they need to know what is going on. Being able to see what is going on by entries in the accident Book gives them essential information.

Employees duty

You also have a duty to inform your employer of any work situation that you consider represents a serious and imminent danger to health and safety. You should also tell them of any matter which you think represents a shortcoming in their protection arrangements for health and safety. So if you think that something is a risk to safety, tell your employer via your line manager, or bring it to the attention of your safety rep.