

## Reporting Incidents and Near Misses

Working in a laboratory comes with the potential for being exposed to different risks. Depending on the type of testing taking place in your laboratory, biological, chemical, and physical hazards will vary. By maintaining a strong culture of safety, laboratories reduce the risk of employees being injured on the job by these hazards.

Annual risk assessments and training are a big part of this culture of safety, and so is feeling comfortable reporting incidents and near misses.

Most laboratories require reporting all incidents and near misses to continually improve laboratory safety. Reporting near misses, such as finding broken glass on the bench, goes a long way to keep your co-workers safe and strengthen the laboratory's culture of safety.

You should always feel open to report and discuss safety issues with your laboratory supervisor. When an incident or near miss is not reported:

- It may happen again and with more severe consequences.
- An injury later becomes more severe, and the person may not be able to claim worker's compensation, or other entitled medical and financial benefits.
- Exposure to pathogens that aren't reported immediately, may result in the person becoming ill later, and exposing others during the incubation period.

To report an incident or near miss, notify your supervisor immediately and follow the specific procedures outlined in your laboratory's SOP.

