

Q: How will I be able to submit a near-miss report?

A: Reporting is easy: You can report directly into the SafeOCS online system at near-miss.bts.gov. Or, you can call 1-844-738-90CS (1-844-738-9627).

Q: What opportunities will I have to participate in the development of the SafeOCS Program?

A: SafeOCS is sincerely committed to continually improving the near-miss reporting system. A feedback button is available online to provide comments and input on the system (near-miss.bts.gov).

Q: When will SafeOCS become active?

A: Individual reporting will begin soon. For details on the date please check near-miss.bts.gov or 1-844-738-90CS (1-844-738-9627).



Make it safe Make a report



near-miss.bts.gov

For additional information, call
the confidential toll-free line:
1-844-738-90CS
(1-844-738-9627)

SafeOCS A Near-Miss Reporting System

Q&As for Employees



near-miss.bts.gov

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Q: What is the SafeOCS Program?

A: SafeOCS is a voluntary, confidential near-miss reporting program that collects and analyzes information about near misses to identify industry-wide safety trends that can be used to advance safety in oil and gas operations on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). Near-miss reports are voluntary and confidential and can be submitted by all offshore workers at all levels. The identity of the reporters is protected by Federal law and cannot be released.

Q: What is a near miss?

A: A "near miss" is a sequence of events that could have resulted in human injury, environmental damage, or negative business impact, if not for a fortuitous break in the chain of events.

Q: Why do we need the SafeOCS Program?

A: There are individual companies' proprietary near-miss safety programs that exist on oil and gas facilities offshore. SafeOCS will increase the availability of aggregated near-miss information industry-wide. This information is reported confidentially and voluntarily, to support the development of innovative solutions leading to new safety decisions and measures to reduce incidents. This near-miss data is needed to identify opportunities for improved operational safety, security, health, and environmental protection.

Q: What is in it for me, an offshore worker?

A: Your report is the first step toward safety. SafeOCS gives offshore workers or any witness a confidential way to report events or conditions in confidence that could have led to an accident or loss—near misses. These reports can help prevent near misses from becoming real incidents in the future. Your name—and your company's—is protected by law. If you have concerns about reporting a near miss in a secure environment while offshore, you have the option to report online or by phone when you're off the facility and onshore.

Q: How can I be sure my identity will be protected?

A: SafeOCS operates under a Federal law, the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA), which requires that the program, under strict criminal and civil penalties for noncompliance, protect your identity and treat your report confidentially. Information voluntarily submitted under this statute also is protected from release to other government agencies, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, and subpoena. Even the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) cannot have access to your identity or your report. In addition, the information from individual records cannot be used for enforcement purposes. Information voluntarily submitted to the program by companies or other organizations under CIPSEA will also be subject to CIPSEA protections.

Q: How will the near-miss reports be used?

A: Once identifying information has been removed, the near-miss reports will be reviewed by SafeOCS staff and subject matter oil and gas experts, working as agents for SafeOCS under CIPSEA regulations. Individuals who report near misses also will have the opportunity, on a voluntary basis, to participate in a confidential follow up interview with these subject matter experts. If a reporter has indicated that they may be contacted for additional information, an interview may be conducted to collect details—but only if they have agreed to such contact. Based on its review of individual and aggregated near-miss reports, SafeOCS will make its own analytical reports publicly available periodically for use in identifying innovations to improve safety. Understanding near misses is essential to reducing risks and hazards in the offshore workplace.

Q: Who can report?

A: Anyone can report a near miss. The system is targeted for employees working in offshore oil and gas operations on the OCS and any employee can report, whether a line employee or a supervisor. Individual companies are encouraged to submit near-miss data as well.



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