What is a Near Miss?
A Near Miss is an unplanned event that did not result in injury, illness, or damage—but had the potential to do so. Only a fortunate break in the chain of events prevented an injury, fatality or damage; in other words, a miss that was nonetheless very near. A faulty process or management system invariably is the root cause for the increased risk that leads to the near miss and should be the focus of improvement. Other familiar terms for these events are a "close call," a “narrow escape,” or a “good catch.”

How Do Near Miss Reporting Systems Prevent Future Incidents?
Many safety activities are reactive and not proactive, and some organizations wait for losses to occur before taking steps to prevent a recurrence. Near miss incidents often precede loss producing events but may be overlooked as there was no harm or injury. History has shown repeatedly that most loss producing events, both serious and catastrophic, were preceded by warnings or near miss incidents. Recognizing and reporting near miss incidents can significantly improve worker safety and enhance an organization’s safety culture.

Near Misses in a Nutshell
Focusing on near-miss data may add more toward improving the quality of care than relying on adverse events alone. Reporting near misses provides free lessons; by taking the time to report a near miss, staff can bring issues to the attention of a larger group more poised to evoke a system change that can prevent an actual event from occurring. Although most of the literature on reporting systems in healthcare focuses on the act of reporting rather than the follow-up that occurs as a result, strategies to include front-line staff in the communication loop are integral to the success of protocols addressing patient safety.

KPI Safety-Online Incident Reporting
KPI Safety aggregates incident reports, success stories, and key safety indicators into an intuitive solution. Using KPI Safety, employees can report incidents and near-misses, while also discussing corrective and preventive actions taken. The dashboard also contains an electronic huddle form that documents the huddle and assigns follow-up responsibilities to employees. With KPI Safety, Saunders Medical Center will ensure that no incident ever goes unaddressed.
Common types of HAIs include:
- Catheter-associated urinary tract infections
- Surgical Site Infections
- Blood stream infections
- Pneumonia
- Clostridium difficile

Infection Control Corner
Preventing Healthcare-Associated Infections
HAIs are a significant source of complications across the continuum of care and can be transmitted between different health care facilities. However, recent studies suggest that implementing existing prevention practices can lead to up to a 70 percent reduction in certain HAIs.

Studies have shown that proper education and training of health care workers increases compliance with and adoption of best practices to prevent HAIs. Examples of best practices by a health care provider include careful insertion, maintenance, and prompt removal of catheters, as well as the careful use of antibiotics. More examples of best practices include hand hygiene, attention to safety culture, and antibiotic stewardship.

Between June 18th and July 18th, there are an estimated 6,300 firework-related injuries and over 20 percent of these are eye injuries. From contusions to corneal lacerations, from children to adults, everyone is at risk of a firework-related eye injury if proper firework safety precautions are not taken. During this year’s summertime celebrations, be sure to follow some important safety tips provided by the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

1. Never let children play with fireworks of any type.
2. View fireworks from at least 500 feet away.
3. Leave the lighting of fireworks to trained professionals.
4. If you find unexploded fireworks, do not touch them—contact your local fire or police department immediately.
5. Never use fireworks while impaired by drugs or alcohol.
6. Never allow young children to handle fireworks.
7. Older children should use them only under close adult supervision.
8. Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should wear protective eyewear.
9. Never light them indoors.
10. Only use them away from people, houses, and flammable material.
11. Only light one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting.
13. Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks.
14. Soak unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding.
15. Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don’t go off or in case of fire.

If you are injured by fireworks, immediately go to a doctor or hospital. If an eye injury occurs, don’t touch or rub it, as this may cause more damage. Do not flush the eye out with water or attempt to put any ointment on it. If you are burned, remove clothing from area and run cool, not cold, water over the burn (do not use ice) and call your doctor immediately.