

Incident Reporting- Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why is incident reporting important?

Incident reporting strengthens the Scouting America safety culture, benefiting everyone involved. It raises awareness of potential risks, prompting swift preventive actions. Additionally, it drives improvement by highlighting systematic issues and refining policies for higher-risk activities. This cycle of awareness and enhancement ensures a safer and better scouting experience for all.

Q. What is a “Near Miss Incident?”

A "near miss incident" refers to a situation in which an event or series of events occurs that could have resulted in an accident, injury, property damage, or other negative outcome, but due to fortunate circumstances or timely intervention, no actual harm or damage occurs. Near misses with clear lessons learned can bring to light opportunities to improve safety performance or program practices.

Q. Do you have an example of a Near Miss Incident?

Imagine riding your bike down a hill and almost hitting a big rock. You quickly stop and steer away, avoiding a crash. That's a near miss incident – you almost had an accident, but you stayed safe by acting fast.

Q. What does “Scout rendered first aid” mean?

"Scout rendered first aid" is limited to basic medical interventions that scouts are trained to perform. Anything beyond these basic actions, or any actions requiring advanced medical knowledge or equipment, would be considered beyond the scope of "scout rendered first aid."

Q. I’m an adult leader with a scouting unit. How do I submit an Incident Report or Near Miss Incident Report to Scouting America or the Greater Alabama Council?

Once you have followed the “Five Steps to Incident Reporting” and collected all of the necessary information for the report, contact your local Scouting Professional (District Executive) or contact the Greater Alabama Council at 205-970-0251 for guidance on submitting the report.

Q. How do I submit a Youth Protection/Membership Infraction Report to Scouting America or the Greater Alabama Council?

Before anything else, make sure that the persons involved are safe and not in immediate danger. Scouting units are responsible for enforcing Youth Protection policies. If you discover a policy violation, report it to the Scout Executive or their designee **immediately**

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(contact information below). They will provide guidance on next steps and needed information.

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