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Shin-Etsu Chemical Co., Ltd.

Close-call (*Hiyari-hatto*) Incidents Experienced during Daily Work

○ Views of Employees Collected Through Questionnaire

The following are typical examples of close-call (*hiyari-hatto*) incidents and improvement action plans made by employees, which were reported at four plants of Shin-Etsu Chemical by means of a questionnaire.

* Depending on the nature of the incidents, we will determine what further actions are necessary to assure essential safety.

Factors Leading to a Close-call	Reported Close-call Incidents	Improvement Action Plans *
Human Factor	When walking to the shipping gate and passing by a truck scale, I saw some people walking just in front of the scale while a truck was being weighed. I think this is dangerous, especially when a tanker truck is being weighed.	We will analyze the situation to determine why people were walking in front of the truck and whether they need to pass in front of it. In addition, we will implement a hazard prediction activity (HPA or kiken yochi) around a tanker truck, and if necessary, improve the facilities to prevent human-behavior-induced accidents. Moreover, we will conduct a training program to inform everyone in the plant why the existing rules are in place and to clarify what latent hazards arise if the rules are not followed.
	There is a risk that operators may lose their grip or footing when climbing up and down the ladder of a tanker or container, causing them to slip and fall.	We will encourage operators to implement a hazard prediction activity (HPA) before a day's work begins so as to ensure that operators can safely climb up and down the ladder.
	Some people wearing lab robes turn up their sleeves, especially in summer. There is a risk that they may get chemical agents on their arms or that their arms may come into contact with the dryer when handling items inside it.	We will provide special training so that operators will recognize the fact again that they work in a chemical plant where there is a risk of thermal and/or chemical burns and to ensure that they properly wear working uniforms according to the safety rules.
	I mistook the "reverse" switch of the cart for the "forward" one and was nearly hit by a cart.	We will encourage operators to carry out "physical pointing and calling out" to prevent a recurrence of such a mistake.
	Some people park their cars near the dining hall or lavatory, leaving their car with the engine running. This could be dangerous, as cases have been reported of such actions having caused a fire at other companies.	We will ensure that all employees and external contractors turn off the engine when their vehicle is parked on the premises.
	We sometimes, but not always, use a cutter knife. I do not think this will cause a major accident, but I sometimes feel there is a danger of injury. Therefore, I will wear Kevlar gloves, just in case.	We will ensure that operators properly wear protective equipment through a hazard prediction activity (HPA) with work instructions.

New

Factors Leading to a Close-call	Reported Close-call Incidents	Improvement Action Plans *
Human Factor	It is difficult to wear safety glasses on ordinary glasses at the same time. Therefore, I often forget to wear safety glasses.	We will provide protective goggles to operators who wear ordinary glasses.
	When carrying materials, I piled up and carried an excessive number of boxes to finish the work quickly. I nearly dropped the boxes and tripped over my own feet.	We will instruct operators not to rush in order to finish work quickly at a workplace safety meeting.
	When transferring products from storage to a pallet, I sometimes find an empty box at the bottom of the pile. I lose my balance and nearly fall down as a certain amount of force is applied in lifting heavy products.	To avoid operators having to guess whether a box is empty or not, empty and full boxes will be sorted and clearly marked so that they will not be mixed.
	I sometimes feel we should wear a safety belt when working at a height.	Work performed at a height is regulated by law. We will provide training for operators to ensure that they properly use safety equipment.
Human Action	When I was walking in the measurement room, I stepped on burrs of floor covering that was peeled off and felt some pain in my foot.	We repaired deteriorated portions of the floor covering.
	Safety stripe tape on a stepladder used for equipment maintenance and inspection work was peeling off and I am afraid that the tape could catch on shoes when using the stepladder, causing a person to fall over.	Safety stripe tape has been reapplied.
	When changing into clean-room boots, I am concerned that my body might become unstable and that I might fall and hurt myself.	A bench has been set up so that a person can sit down and change their boots.
	At the time of a valve inspection, when I applied pressure to loosen a fixed nut with a tool that had much play, the tool disengaged from the nut, and I got a fright.	We will make sure that inspections of the tools will be carried out and that they will be in sound condition prior to the starting of work.
	On my way to transport a dismantled strainer to the washing place, I could not see my footing and did not notice a step. As a result, I stumbled and fell down, hitting my body hard.	We eliminated the step using concrete.
	While changing to my work uniform, I tried to put on a work shoe and stood on one foot. I felt unsteady and almost fell, and I experienced a frightful moment.	As a safety measure, we placed a chair in the changing area to make it easier to change shoes.

Factors Leading to a Close-call	Reported Close-call Incidents	Improvement Action Plans *
Human Action	The floorboard made of a grating is unstable and backlashes due to coming in contact with the pipe's heat insulating material. When walking, I tripped and almost fell.	We resolved the issue regarding the floorboard coming in contact with the heat insulating material, and after eliminating the backlashes, the floorboard was secured and we made sure that there was no unevenness.
	To operate a valve that is placed at a height slightly higher than my height, when I tried to change my body's position while stepping on the piping, my foot slipped and I almost fell.	A step stool was placed so that one can operate the valve without stepping on the piping.
	There is a level difference at the entrance to the electrical power room. I am concerned that outside contractors who come only for the purpose of periodic maintenance may not notice the level difference and might trip and fall when entering or exiting the room.	We displayed an attention alert on the door of the electrical power room and also placed a barricade tape at the place of the level difference.
	I forgot that the screw used to fasten the hydrogen cylinder and pipe together is a reverse screw, and I was at a loss when I tried to unscrew it.	On a part of screw, we identified it as a "reverse screw."
	There is a narrow space between the staircase handrail and the nearby support column, and when I came down the stairs holding onto the handrail, I almost got my fingers caught in this narrow space.	We placed a buffering material in the narrow space so that it will prevent getting caught in the space between the handrail and the support column.
	When changing a halogen lamp, I almost got burnt.	We have revised the lamp-changing procedure to include the wearing of protective gloves for the prevention of burns.
	The display showing the direction of the flow in the pipe was incorrect both at the site and in the design drawing. There is a possibility that this could lead to misoperation or a mistake in construction work	We corrected the display to show the correct flow direction.
	When pasting a name on the measured data, on the operation screen "Name Change" and "Delete" were displayed side-by-side, and I almost deleted the data by mistaking the choice.	The command selection method was changed from screen operation to keyboard input.

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Human Action	In the morning, when going down the stairs to clock out at the end of my working period from midnight until the early morning, I almost collided there with a contractor because there are no indications on the stairs guiding those ascending and descending them.	A phosphorescent display indicating the direction for ascending and for descending the stairs was installed and also a handrail was installed on the wall side.
	After coming down the stairs from the instrumentation room on my way going to my worksite, I lost my balance due to feeling ill and not being able to put my foot forward, perhaps due to a mild case of heat stroke.	Workers' health management situations will be checked to see whether or not they have sufficient hydration and resting time when working during the summer.
	The inside of a protective barrier that is coated to prevent degradation is easy to slip on when it is wet due to rain or snow, and there is a danger that one could fall.	We affixed non-slip tape on the slippery area in order to prevent the danger of falling.
	The drain pipe and the floor are the same color so that the pipe is not easy to notice when people are passing by, and I am concerned someone might trip.	We painted the drain pipe in a fluorescent orange color that is quite different from the color of the floor so that it is easy to recognize the pipe.
	The heating vessel's power was turned off, and when I touched the cover with my bare hands my hands almost got burned.	We arranged it so that until the heating vessel is cooled down, a "Caution: Hot!" notice will be displayed.
	It is difficult to distinguish between the "No Passage" sign necessary at the time of facility inspection, and the sign for "Operation Cautions."	We repositioned the placement area of the "Operation Cautions" sign. At the same time, in order for the "No Passage" sign to be seen clearly and be easily distinguished from the other sign, we changed the placement of this sign to a hanging-down type.
	When a dolly passed over a mudguard mat, it crumpled up the mat, and my foot got caught and I got scared.	We stabilized the mudguard mat by applying a double-sided tape.
	In winter when snow had accumulated, because some of the service water used to melt the snow had frozen in an area where people pass by when leaving work, I slipped and almost fell.	We stopped using service water to melt snow when it is not necessary.

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Human Action	At the inspection work area, my foot fell into a u-shaped gutter where there was no cover, and I almost fell down.	A cover for the gutter was installed.
	There is a danger of tripping over an eyebath's drain piping that is on the ground.	We painted the drain piping yellow so that it is easily recognizable.
	A rotating machine continues to rotate even after the power is turned off, and there is a possibility one could get caught when the cover is opened.	A lock function was added so that the cover can be opened only after the rotation stops.
	When I stepped on a stool that was placed to allow crossing over piping, my foot slipped and I almost fell.	The piping and stool were removed so as to make the area flat so that there is no difference in level.
	Because the work to fill a conduit with antifreeze involves the use of a ladder, there is a danger that one could fall.	We will modify the workplace so that the work will not involve using a ladder.
	On the staircase landing, there are many blind spots, and there is a high risk of colliding with people.	A mirror was installed to make sure there are no blind spots.
	When I put on the rubber gloves that were placed on top of the cover of the reactor, they were hot and it gave me a scare.	We are investigating a place to temporarily put the gloves.
	When patrolling the site, I could not see well the area where I was walking because of the steam coming out of the drainage conduit and I almost fell into the drainage gutter.	A cover was installed over the drainage gutter.
	The handrailing of the plant's staircase deck is constructed according to standard specifications; however, visually it appears to be low and it makes me feel a bit fearful.	We will raise the height of the handrailing.
	When cleaning some greasy grime, I almost missed a step that was in front of the entrance to the room.	We installed anti-slip flooring in the area. We will also conduct a review to specify the cause of the greasy grime and also implement measures to prevent such unclean substances.

Factors Leading to a Close-call	Reported Close-call Incidents	Improvement Action Plans *
Human Action	Because of changes in my field of vision due to using bifocal eyeglasses, when I was going up and down the stairs it was hard to accurately grasp a sense of distance and so I almost missed a step.	We will make sure that when workers are going up and down the stairs they must always use the handrail.
	When transferring products to a tank lorry, because there was a ground earth wire, which was supposed to be run along the ground, in an elevated position, it almost became entangled around my neck and chest.	We are considering to add a fluorescent color in order for the ground earth wire to stand out and be easily identifiable.
	When engaging in a cleaning job, a part of my body brushed against the emergency call button on an instrument panel and I almost pushed it on.	In order to prevent the emergency stop button from being accidentally pushed on, a cover was installed over the button.
	When unfastening a bolt of a pipe joint, retained liquid came rushing out from the joints.	Prior to carrying out non-routine work, we will make sure that the hazard prediction activities (HPA) are followed and we will prepare piping drawings and directions before the starting of such work.
	When inspecting the facility on a stormy day, while holding the paper data documents in my hand in order to keep them from being blown away, I slipped on the wet floor and almost fell down.	We implemented a skid-prevention measure by mounting an anti-skid tape along the passageway of the facility.
	I am taking a training course on cardiac resuscitation, but I am concerned about whether or not I will be able to correctly perform the resuscitation procedure if I should actually be faced with such a situation.	We created a procedure chart explaining how to apply cardiac resuscitation and posted it in a prominent place to help provide guidance about how to perform the procedure so employees will know what to do if faced with such a situation.
	While making an inspection round on the first floor of the worksite, a bolt came falling down from an area on the second floor where dismantling work was going on, and it gave me a scare.	We insisted that the general contractor and the company working on-site make sure to more thoroughly supervise their work.
	While I was hauling a load with a forklift, a person suddened came out from the side passageway, and it gave me a quite a fright.	An instruction was issued that stated that when transporting a load, one should move slowly, while carefully checking the surrounding areas, and we posted a "no-entry" sign by the forklift passageway.

Factors Leading to a Close-call	Reported Close-call Incidents	Improvement Action Plans *
Human Action	Because the nameplate of another tank is located near the tank's ladder, there is a high risk of bumping into that nameplate when going up and down the ladder. When I climbed onto a stepladder to check on how the raw materials were being injected, I missed a step and almost fell down.	A protective guard was installed. We placed a movable stepladder with a handrail.
	While transporting chemicals, I stumbled because of the different levels of the floor at the entrance to a room. The employee lost balance and was frightened.	We installed a metal plate and eliminated the floor level differences at the entrance way to the room.
	When I tried to use a cutter to cut up an empty plastic bottle for disposal, the blade dangerously slipped.	When cutting up empty plastic bottles for disposal, we will make use of a steel saw.
	When I was taking apart the partition board for piping, I almost fell off the scaffold.	We will set up a movable scaffold specifically for this work.
	When cleaning one of the two waste-water pumps, another pump started to operate and waste-water spilled out. (I had switched to manual operation only for the pump I was to clean.)	We will carry out a hazard prediction activity (HPA) to ensure the proper switchover. Especially in non-routine work, we will thoroughly implement a hazard prediction activity (HPA) with work instructions to ensure safety.
	When moving a container using a forklift, I nearly dropped the container because the forks had not been thoroughly inserted.	We will operate a forklift checking the position of the forks. We will ensure that the basic procedures are carried out before operation of a forklift truck.
	When transporting process cake (in-process powdered material), the wind blew the powder up into the air and it nearly entered my eye.	We will ensure that operators always wear safety glasses.
	When moving a container using a small forklift, I was nearly caught between the forklift and a cart left in the passageway.	We will ensure that carts are placed only in designated areas. We will instruct operators not to place unnecessary items in passageways.
	When I was working at a height using a working vehicle, another operator below me tried to move it by using the lower control box.	As a temporary measure, we will put a sign indicating that the vehicle must not be operated using the control box. As a permanent measure, we will install an interlocking system so that the working vehicle cannot be operated from two locations at the same time.

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New	Equipment	In the tagging work to be conducted before disconnecting the connection hose from the glass pipe, as a force is applied to the pipe, I'm worried that I might break it.	We have changed the indication method from tagging to a method that does not allow application of force to the glass pipe.
New		The agitator grease inlet of the vessel is close to the rotating part of the agitator, so there is a risk of entanglement by it.	We have extended the pipe for grease filler to make it possible to pour grease from a position outside the rotary device protection cover.
New		As the net for preventing foreign matter from entering the exhaust pipe is corroded and missing, nesting by birds may cause the exhaust pipe to be clogged.	We have installed a net for preventing foreign matter from entering the exhaust pipe, inspected the pipe for defects, and repaired them.
		Unnecessary raw material tanks have been removed, but part of the tank foundation remains. We are concerned that someone on night patrols might trip and fall over.	The remaining tank foundation has been removed.
		A rod-shaped product protrudes above and beyond the product cover of the transport vehicle, which makes contact with the floor of the deck on the way to the haulage traffic.	The product-receiving floor of the carrier has been lowered to prevent contact with the deck floor.
		Because the work area is narrow, the work of disassembling the piping has to be done in an unnatural posture, and so I am concerned that some accidents such as a back strain injury or bumping into things might occur. I would like to see you make some changes in the pipe-line routing so that one can do the work without having to be in such an uncomfortable position.	A new valve was added in the middle of the piping in order to eliminate the need for the disassembling of the piping.
		The steam drain piping along the side of the washbasin in the plant becomes very hot, and I am concerned that I might touch the piping by mistake while washing my hands and might get a burn.	Heat-insulating material was installed around the steam drain piping in order to prevent any burn injury.
		When operating the valve, we prepare a step stool and other items for every operation; however, because the work is performed in an unstable posture, there is a possibility of falling.	To resolve this issue, we set up a four-step ladder with a handrail in order to prevent falls.

Factors Leading to a Close-call	Reported Close-call Incidents	Improvement Action Plans *
Equipment	The safety cover for the rotating equipment is corroded and is not working effectively to prevent one from being entangled in the equipment. In addition, for monthly maintenance work, such as for equipment greasing, the safety cover is removed. I am concerned that there is a risk of being entangled.	The safety cover was changed. In addition, we made it so that maintenance work can be done without removing the safety cover.
	While I was inspecting the inside of the reactor, the floorboard where I was standing was rotting, and I almost loss my footing.	We changed the floorboard to one that has a structure that makes difficult the formation of water puddles and also is coated with high protection against rust.
	While cleaning the floor of the facility, I felt salt water hit my head that was coming down from the gland packing equipment on the floor above. That gave me a chill.	A drip tray was set up to contain the salt water that might come out from the gland packing equipment.
	A whiteboard with a broken leg stand was left on the side of a hallway. I am concerned that it might fall over and hurt a person, or in the case of an emergency it might block the passage of the hallway.	This whiteboard was not in use, and we immediately removed the board.
	On a flocculant charging operation, we have to go up stairs while holding a 15kg bag. There is a fear that we might fall to the floor because there is no handrail on the stairs on the side of the charge port.	We also installed a handrail for the stairs on the side of the charge port.
	There is a crack in the concrete base that is in the base portion of the pillar supporting the measuring instruments and piping. I'm concerned that the measuring instruments might fall or that piping might become damaged.	We repaired the concrete base.
	Although I closed the valve of the pipe that conducts the raw material to the reaction tank, on the controller display it continued showing an open valve indication.	We have corrected the installation state checking method of the valve open/close detection device so that the equipment will operate correctly.
	When heavy machinery or a vehicle such as a car passes over the top of a deformed iron gutter cover, it hits the PVC/FRP piping, and there is a risk of damaging those pipes.	The iron cover was immediately replaced.
	There is an unnecessary piping support near the liquid-extracting pipe for the product tank, and I am concerned that one may trip over it when going around making inspections.	The unnecessary piping support was immediately removed.

Factors Leading to a Close-call	Reported Close-call Incidents	Improvement Action Plans *
Equipment	When inspecting the exhaust fan on the ceiling, because of its old age, some of the anchoring screws had come off and the fan was on the verge of falling down.	The exhaust fan was renewed. All the necessary screws were put in place and it was made sure that they were securely fitted.
	A water treatment agent is being transported by hand in a 20L container over about a 30-meter gravel path from a storage area to the point-of-use, and there is a concern that one could experience back pain and possibly trip and fall.	An exclusive-use dolly with large diameter tires that can be used on unpaved pathways was purchased.
	In the process of preparing raw materials, when I chose the designated raw material switch the name of another raw material was displayed, and that gave me a scare.	A correction was immediately made with regard to the display so that the correct raw material name is displayed.
	In the room for crystal pulling, when I moved towards the back of the chamber to check the flow rate of the cooling water, I almost fell into the space around the stepstool.	The stepstool was made bigger so that there is no open space.
	When operating the drain valve inside a tank dike, there is a danger of damaging the piping made of hard polyvinyl chloride due to losing one's balance.	We changed the routing of the hard polyvinyl chloride piping to a location away from the area of operation.
	The emission of nitrogen gas is directed toward the inside the pilot facility building. If one makes a mistake in valve operation, the nitrogen gas will be emitted as is to the inside of the building, and there is a danger of oxygen deficiency.	We changed the routing of the nitrogen gas emission piping so that the nitrogen gas will be emitted to the outside of the building.
	I am concerned that the hose of the air-driving device for the impact wrench, which is used when removing a bolt nut, could get twisted and caught around one's foot, and there is a possibility that a person could fall down.	We understood that a long-length hose can easily get twisted, so we resolved the issue by connecting short-length hoses using a coupler joint.
	There is a level difference between the cover of the catch basin and the floor, and I am concerned that someone might trip.	We made a cover of the catch basin that will not create a level difference with the floor so that people will not trip.
	When an operator feeds the raw material into the equipment, the operator cannot see the measured current level, and there is a possibility of overload operation.	We relocated the ammeter gauge to a location where an operator can clearly see it.

Factors Leading to a Close-call	Reported Close-call Incidents	Improvement Action Plans *
Equipment	When I stepped on the cover of the sewerage drain, my left foot fell into the gutter because the cover was damaged from corrosion, and as a result I almost fell.	Covers that have a possibility of being corroded were replaced with new covers.
	There is no handrail at the steep staircase in the old building, and I am concerned that there is a danger of stumbling or falling down the stairs.	We installed a handrail.
	A switch for the ventilating fan is located in the back of the workroom, and I am concerned that a worker might easily forget to switch on the ventilating fan, and there is a possibility of taking added time to operate.	We moved the ventilating fan switch to the entrance area of the room.
	Because the ladle that is used for sampling is short in length, there is a risk that one can drop the ladle into the equipment.	If the ladle is made longer, it will cause difficulty in sampling. So we attached a chain to the ladle to prevent it from dropping into the equipment.
	On the temperature control panel for heating oil, there is a switch that will keep the heater continuing to go on heating. If the switch is turned on by mistake, there is a possibility of the temperature becoming higher than the set temperature.	We eliminated the switch that will keep the heater continuing to go on heating.
	Anti-slip tape is only partially mounted on the edge of the staircase, and the tape has also deteriorated. I am concerned one could slip.	We re-mounted the anti-slip tape all around the edge of the staircase.
	There is an opening on a part of the side ditch cover where one's foot could possibly fall into it.	We have eliminated this open area.
	Because the sample extraction place is located at a high position, there is a possibility of dropping the sample receptacle and possibly receiving a chemical burn. In addition, the workability is not good.	The sample extraction place was changed so that a worker can perform this job by placing the sample receptacle on the floor.
	Because the pipes used for sampling are made of a resin, I am concerned that an electrical charge could ignite the extracted liquid and/or cause a shock to workers.	The piping material was changed to the type that can ground electricity.

Factors Leading to a Close-call	Reported Close-call Incidents	Improvement Action Plans *
Equipment	Because a car's stopper block has no indicator, it is hard to recognize during a night inspection, and so there is a danger of tripping over it and falling. In addition, there is also a danger of a wheel of a car getting stuck as it is going through inbetween the blocks.	In order to make it easy to see the stopper block, a reflective tape was attached to the block.
	Because the corner of the eyebath basin's frame has a sharp edge, I am concerned that it may represent a danger.	We attached a cushioning material to the sharp area.
	Piping that does not have a way to drain water has a risk of being damaged in winter when the water freezes.	A drain valve was installed.
	Coolant flow inspection work involves having to lift up a 5kg cover, and this could cause a back strain and/or your fingers could get caught.	In order to eliminate the need to lift up the cover, we installed an inspection hole in the cover.
	When I was moving a cart, it did not go straight and almost hit the wall. The wheel's rotating bearing part was slightly bent.	The wheel's rotating bearing part was replaced.
	Because the rim of a stainless steel vat is sharp, there is a danger of cutting one's hand on it.	The sharp part of the rim surface was rounded.
	When I tried to use the air from the air blower to dust off the powder sticking to my work clothes, the hose moved wildly and almost hit my face.	An air gun was installed that made it easy to hold the head of the hose so that the hose could not move wildly.
	Work was done so that the piping can be easily removed for inspection. However, because no support for the piping is installed, there is a concern that the piping may become unstable.	We installed a support for the piping.
	An area where mortar is applied becomes slippery when it rains or snows, and so I am concerned that someone could slip and fall.	We applied mortar that is mixed with sand in order to make it non-slip.

Factors Leading to a Close-call	Reported Close-call Incidents	Improvement Action Plans *
Equipment	On the equipment display screen, there is a part about the adjusting of the degree of opening of the regulation control valve that is hard to understand, and so there is a risk of making a mistake in understanding the state of the opening and closing of the value.	We will change the display regarding the degree of the opening of the regulation control valve to make it simpler to understand. In addition, we will continue to conduct training sessions concerning the valve set-up and control methods.
	There is a metal protective cover over the operation lever to prevent operation mistakes; however, the end part of the protective cover is exposed, and my clothes were caught on it, which gave me a fright.	We covered the protective cover with a sheet, and we also put a fluorescent safety tape over it.
	During the cleaning operation of a 3-roller milling machine it was found that the safety device may not function correctly depending on the direction of the installation of the safety cover, and I felt it was a risky situation.	We changed the configuration of the safety cover so that irrespective of the direction of the cover's installation the safety device will always work properly.
	In the event of a serious accident, a yellow-black rope is used to restrict traffic; however, at night the visibility of the rope is not good enough.	We will use a red-color guide light to improve visibility.
	In the old building, there are railings whose height is lower than the plant's standards, and there is a risk of falling.	The railings built in accordance with old standards were corrected to the height of the plant's standards.
	The equipment's "STOP" button can easily be pushed by mistake.	We installed a cover over the button to prevent any operation mistake.
	A ground wire with an automatic winding function crosses a passageway and it became disconnected during work, and the metal on the tip of the ground wire almost hit me in the face.	We will change the ground wire's installation position so that it will not cross the passageway.
	I noticed a sudden shortage in the cutting machine's cooling water, and I immediately stopped the machine to prevent damage to it.	We have installed a safety device so that when the supply of the cooling water becomes insufficient the machine will automatically stop its operation.
	While conducting a pre-operation check of an apparatus, I felt a fright when my thigh made contact with the corner of the apparatus cover.	We eliminated the sharp protruding part of the apparatus cover.

Factors Leading to a Close-call	Reported Close-call Incidents	Improvement Action Plans *
Equipment	Because the steam trap vent is facing in the direction of a concrete wall, there has been some damage to the concrete.	We changed the direction of the vent and also repaired the damaged area with mortar.
	While walking in the plant wearing a helmet, I bumped my head on a pipe support frame that is about 1.8m above the ground.	We put black/yellow-striped safety tape around the pipe support frame. In addition, we displayed a sign reading "Watch Your Head!" at an eye-level height where it can be seen clearly.
	There is no caution indicator where the steps are in the around the manufacturing facility tank, and there is a possibility that one might stumble, especially at night.	We painted the area so that one can clearly see where the steps are.
	When draining water in the pipes, because of the residual pressure, the hose that was connected at the tip of the pipe moved violently and almost hit my face.	We will extend the pipe to the drainage canal and do away with the use of a hose.
	When I opened the door to the corridor, because of the pressure differences between the corridor and the room, the door suddenly closed and my body and fingers almost got caught.	We changed the door to a sliding door.
	Screws used to adjust the height of the machinery are protruding more than necessary above the fixed surface of the machinery, and there is a danger that the bottom part of work pants could get caught.	We cut away the unnecessary part of the screws. In addition, we placed a cap nut on and made the surface of the screw smooth so that work clothing cannot get caught there.
	The key box is merely propped against the wall in the room. I am concerned that in case of an earthquake or for some other reason, it might fall over and cause injuries.	We firmly fixed the keybox to the wall.
	There is no safety cover over the open area of the axle pump. I have concerns about the possibility of getting one's fingers caught in it during operation.	We placed a safety cover over the open area of the axle pump.
	There is no thermometer in the cylinder storeroom. Not being able to know the temperature is a cause of concern.	We installed a thermometer so that the temperature inside the cylinder storeroom can always be checked.

Factors Leading to a Close-call	Reported Close-call Incidents	Improvement Action Plans *
Equipment	When inspecting equipment I walk across an elevated bridge, and when the snow covers the ground, it is hard to see the floor of the bridge. Thus, there is some danger of falling off the bridge by making a misstep.	We installed a safety fence and took measures to prevent the possibility of such a fall.
	The cover of a manhole is slightly warped as a result of the coming-and-going of large-sized cars. Although the warped part is small, there is a danger of forklifts or pedestrians stumbling over it or being caught by it.	We have replaced the cover and also we have reinforced the frame of the cover with concrete, thus eliminating the issue of the warped cover and making it so that the cover will not warp in the future.
	After performing the work of draining water from the tank, when I moved away, I stumbled over a step and nearly fell over.	We discontinued the work of people draining water from the tank.
	Because the electric light used to check the inside of the vessel is a mobile-type, the electric cable, which is at the level of my foot, is not fixed. Because it could cause one to fall, it is dangerous.	We installed a fixed-type LED light and eliminated the cable that was not fixed.
	When transferring flammable liquids to a smaller container, I can't judge the correct amount of nitrogen to use in order to prevent a fire from starting due to static electricity, etc.	We installed a measuring instrument so that one will know the correct amount of nitrogen to use.
	Because the tube that allows hot water to flow in order to warm the reactor is put on and off every time this work is performed, I am concerned about being burned.	We changed the tube to one for which it is not necessary to put it on and off.
	There is a danger of the bolts that are securing the pillar of the building becoming eroded due to rainwater seeping in from cracks in the concrete exterior of the building.	We have replaced the eroded bolts that are securing the pillar, and the cracked areas in the concrete exterior of the building were all repaired so that rainwater will be prevented from seeping in.
	When unloading a cargo with a forklift, the area at the above-the-head level where a cargo is to be placed is hard to see, and drivers have to rely on their intuitive sense. I feel this is dangerous.	We positioned a mirror so that the place to put a cargo can be seen from the forklift driver's seat.
	Because of the addition of equipment, in some areas it has become hard to hear warning alarms, and I am concerned about the possibility of a response delay at the time of an emergency.	We have installed additional warning-alarm equipment so that there is no place where a warning alarm is hard to hear.

Factors Leading to a Close-call	Reported Close-call Incidents	Improvement Action Plans *
Equipment	Because there is no protective cover in a blind-spot area of the conveyer drive chain, I am concerned that someone's hand might get caught.	We placed a protective cover in the area to prevent any such occurrence.
	The U Band that secures the mercury lamp is corroded and there is a danger that the mercury lamp may fall in the event of an earthquake or other disastrous event.	We replaced the U Band.
	There is a vertical ladder set up on the 3rd floor of the gas-emission processing facility, and if one inadvertently falls from it, he or she will fall down to the first floor.	So that one does not fall to the first floor, we changed the location of the ladder. Moreover, we provided a backrest for the ladder.
	Because there are valves and pipes located in a passageway, there is a risk of someone stumbling and falling and also a risk of a secondary accident occurring such as the breaking of a pipe.	A covering was installed at these places, and the area was also made into a "no-passage" area.
	Because the height clearance limit between the ground and the safety fall-prevention barrier used at the time of filling the tank is actually lower than the displayed (4.5m) clearance limit, there is a risk of passing vehicles coming into contact with the barrier.	The height clearance limit displayed was changed to 4.0m and all vehicle operators were reminded about the caution.
	The color display of the open-close indicator of the manually-operated valve of a process equipment unit is the opposite of the color display rules of the plant. Accordingly, because of this confusing situation, there is a possibility of misoperating the valve.	The color display of the open-close indicator was modified to be in accordance with the plant's color display rules.
	When pouring raw materials from a tank into a container, for the purpose of ignition prevention the nitrogen that is to be poured into the container is discharged into atmosphere so that the pressure does not exceed the pressure capacity of the container. Accordingly, there are concerns about solvent inhalation and oxygen deficiency.	Pipework was carried out to equalize the pressure levels of the tank and the container so as to eliminate the discharge of nitrogen into the atmosphere.
	When operating the control panel of the river water intake gate, because the foothold area is narrow, there is a risk of falling into the river due to a recoil reaction caused by the operation.	A safety barrier is being put up. Until the end of the installation work, tape will be used as fall-prevention measure and a safety belt will be used as well.

Factors Leading to a Close-call	Reported Close-call Incidents	Improvement Action Plans *
Equipment	A part of a floorboard in the second-floor exit area of the building is corroded and it appears that a hole could open.	A steel plate was immediately laid and a "Watch Your Step" warning sign was put up. Later on, the corroded area was replaced.
	On top of the stairs, there is a fire alarm detector installed in the ceiling, and there is a risk of someone coming in contact with it and thus sounding a fire alarm.	A sign was immediately displayed indicating that one should avoid coming in contact with the fire alarm detector, and the fire alarm unit was soon moved to a safer location.
	Because the bearings are exposed when one is cleaning the dust collector receptacle, there is a risk of being caught there during times of intermittent operation.	Immediately a caution sign was put up, and later a safety cover was installed.
	Water run for the purpose of preventing freezing of a fire hydrant was discharged onto the road and the road surface froze. When checking outside at night, I slipped and almost fell down.	We attached a hose so that the discharged water will go into a drainage channel.
	There is no fence behind the ladder for the stock storage cases in the storage lane. Thus, there is a possibility of injury from being caught between them.	After discussing the problem with the maker, we changed the position of the ladder and put in place an additional safety fence.
	Because piping support that was not being used at the time was still present, an employee's foot might get caught there and cause the employee to fall.	We removed the piping support immediately.
	The position of a nozzle that directs the flow of a liquid is above eye level and there is a danger of the liquid splattering over the face of an employee.	We extended the piping and lowered the position of the nozzle.
	The curvature of a gas supply pipe was too sharp and it became crushed.	We connected an angular pipe fitting to avoid the sharp bend.
	The condenser cooling water outlet thermometer is installed near foot level, and when making the rounds, I almost banged into it.	We will add a protective cover for the thermometer so that the structure will be hard to bang into.
	The deck for the operation of the valve for steam supply is at a distance from the place where the valve is installed, and when you operate it, you have to put yourself in an unstable position, bending forward while stretching your arm. This position is dangerous.	In order to permit operators to do their work in a stable body position, we will extend the deck to the place where the valve is installed.

Factors Leading to a Close-call	Reported Close-call Incidents	Improvement Action Plans *
Equipment	When I got on the edge of a grating in the raw-material filling area, the opposite side of the grating sprang up, and it scared me.	By connecting the gratings with clips, we will prevent a grating from springing up.
	When making some pipe changes, the valve attachment position became inappropriate and valve operation became rather difficult to do.	By installing a deck, we will make valve operation easier.
	There is a risk of an explosion when powder materials are put into a large amount of solvent through a manhole. Is it possible to convert the tank into a sealed tank?	We will re-confirm information regarding the risks of substances used in the plant and consider converting the tank into a sealed one to eliminate the risk of explosion and fire.
	There is a risk of electrostatic ignition when a product storage tank is cleaned using solvent, even though nitrogen gas is injected inside the vessel to inhibit combustion. I suggest that the tank be sealed when it is cleaned.	We will seal the tank as suggested to enhance the safety of the cleaning process.
	When preparing raw materials, I sometimes stumble because of uneven state of the floor.	We will check the floor of the workplace and remedy the unevenness of the floor to enhance safety.
	In my workplace, many forklifts are used to handle heavy objects. There is a risk that operators may collide with forklifts. I do not think it is possible not to use forklifts, but I believe automation may reduce such risks.	We will review the routes that forklifts travel and operators walk. We will look into automating conveyance work.
	Though their basic operation method is almost the same, the models or positions of valves differ from one piece of equipment to the next. The positions of the buttons and indicator lamps on control panels also differ from one piece of equipment to the next. This may cause improper operation of equipment. Is it possible to standardize them?	We will re-check the valves, buttons, and lamps pointed out and review the indicators to prevent mistakes.
	When organic solvent was put into a bucket for filter cleaning, the solvent nearly splashed on me.	There is a rule that states operators must wear safety goggles and protective gloves when organic solvent is being used. Furthermore, the use of a bucket for taking out organic solvents will be prohibited.

Factors Leading to a Close-call	Reported Close-call Incidents	Improvement Action Plans *
Equipment	A gutter cover fell when a cart passed over it. There is a risk of a cart toppling over.	A stopper has been welded to the back of the cover.
	When wheeling a cart around while carrying ingots (cylindrical poles), I nearly caught my hand between the ingot and the handle of the cart.	The length of a cart has been adjusted so as to eliminate the risk that operators catch their hands.
	When a grating cover (gutter cover) was replaced, the spare parts did not fit, as the size was slightly different from an original one. It may fall.	We will install a safety fence to prevent the grating cover from falling. The size of the grating fence was adjusted to fit.
	A gutter cover was deformed. I nearly stumbled over it.	We will immediately replace the iron gutter cover.
Method	The storage place for fall-prevention equipment does not have any display or other types of signs with mounting instructions for ladders, stepladders, etc. Incorrect mounting could lead to a crashing-down or falling-down accident.	The most appropriate mounting method was reverified and a photo depicting the correctly mounted state was posted.
	A part of the scaffolding support leg of the temporary construction scaffold was left on the roof. The roof could not hold the weight of the record heavy snowfall that accumulated on the temporary scaffold, and it was damaged.	We have removed the temporary scaffold and repaired the roof.
	The air pressure of the blower used in the cleaning of measuring instruments after their use is high (0.8MPa), so I am concerned about the possibility of damage occurring to the measuring device or of flying particles getting in one's eyes.	We attached a pressure regulator and lowered the pressure to 0.2MPa.
	Although the temperature of the water used in the equipment has changed from the room temperature level to become that of the level of hot water, this equipment does not have a heat-insulating material applied and thus there is a possibility of getting a burn injury.	We have installed a heat-insulating material for the prevention of a burn injury.

Factors Leading to a Close-call	Reported Close-call Incidents	Improvement Action Plans *
Method	I am doing the work of feeding raw materials and the discharging of products while keeping the 40kg cover of the reactor tank hanging. If the hanging wire snaps, there is a possibility of a person being caught by the fallen cover or getting hit by it.	We have set up a work stand so that the cover can be placed safely.
	The nozzle, which is now being used at the time of preparing raw materials and other things from the metallic 18L square can into the equipment, is a nozzle usually used for a drum can. Because the nozzle is longer than the depth of the 18L square can, when pulling out the nozzle after the preparation, there is a risk of a chemical burn caused by drippings from the nozzle.	We made a nozzle that has an appropriate length for the depth of the 18L square can.
	When asking for assistance in removing the rubber seal packing that is fixed on the tank's manhole cover, the cover came off and fell on top of my foot.	Prior to the start of this work, we will confirm the conduct of basic operations and work procedures and carry out risk anticipation training.
	The ground of a stainless powder recovery container has an attaching-and-detaching operation when working to transfer powder. For this reason, there is a possibility of a powder dust explosion caused by static electricity accumulated in the powder.	By changing the method by which the ground is attached to that of a stainless container, we eliminated the ground attaching-and-detaching operation at the time of transferring the powder.
	The checklist for the purpose of a time that a disaster could occur is merely affixed on the wall. I don't think it can be effectively utilized at a time of disaster.	We printed out hard copies of the checklist so that it can be taken along by personnel as they go through the checklist operations. In addition, we provided writing tools for recording purposes.
	When we tried to dry the substrate by rotating it in the substrate cleaning machine, the substrate broke loose from the equipment and was damaged.	We revised the operation manual in order to thoroughly conduct the method of positioning of the substrate in the substrate cleaning machine and the work process of confirming the installation status.
	When lifting some machinery parts with a fork lift, because the fork insertion was not deep enough the parts became tilted and almost fell off.	We added a line display to indicate the width of the machinery parts on the fork lift. Furthermore, we added a process before the lifting of the cargo to make sure about the position of fork and the cargo.
	The storage location for the bolts and nuts of test equipment is not clear, and there is a possibility of misplacing or losing them. If a bolt/nut is lost, we cannot correctly close the equipment, and that could lead to injuries.	We prepared a storage container indicating the number of bolts and nuts and set aside a place to store the container, and we also added a display indicating the storage location.

Factors Leading to a Close-call	Reported Close-call Incidents	Improvement Action Plans *
Method	The letters on the sign containing information about the foam fire-extinguishing equipment operation procedure are fading due to exposure to sunlight. I am concerned about whether or not one can appropriately operate the equipment at the time of a fire.	We are going to renew the lettering on the operation procedure sign. In addition, we are going to remind everyone that this information about operation procedure is also contained on the inside of the cover of the operation box.
	When withdrawing the reagent with a syringe from an ampule that had a sharp edge, my hand slipped and I almost cut myself on the sharp edge of the ampule.	We will make sure that one wears cut-resistant gloves and that one breaks the stem of the ampule in the correct place, as explained in the ampule-handling manual.
	Because the hoses used in our work are placed on the floor, there is a danger of getting one's foot caught and one could fall and get injured.	We changed the safe storage method for the hoses by hanging them one-by-one over the pipes that are not being used.
	When cleaning the inside of a hose with compressed air, the band hose clamp came off and the hose began to move wildly.	We doubled the band hose clamp, and by attaching a pressure regulator, we lowered the pressure of the compressed air.
	I am working in a room without a telephone. In case of an emergency, there is a high possibility of being unable to deal with the situation.	A telephone was installed.
	When two people were operating a crane, the other person let the crane switch box go, and the switch box almost hit my body.	We made it so that when the switch box is let go, the switch box will rise.
	The basket that removes solid matter in a liquid needs cleaning because its mesh easily becomes clogged. When cleaning it, the very heavy basket has to be hoisted up manually, and there is a possibility of hurting your back.	We changed the method from manual operation to a method using a chain block.
	The aprons used for protection against chemical solutions are folded after use and put back into a box. However, when some of a chemical solution gets on an apron, the solution almost gets on your hands as you fold it, and I felt this constitutes a risk.	Hangers for the aprons were installed so that there will be no folding work involved.

Factors Leading to a Close-call	Reported Close-call Incidents	Improvement Action Plans *
Method	To clean the blades attached to the rolling machine, tweezers are used to pick up the waste and there is a risk of the blades coming in contact with your hands.	We changed the tweezers to the kind that has the tip bent at a right angle so that the blades will not touch one's hands.
	After unloading containers and placing them in a lift in an angled position, I opened the inside door; then, a container suddenly fell over and my hand almost got caught.	We changed the size of the container to a smaller one so that one does not have to be placed in an angled position.
	At the place to fill the products into the tanker, the wire to place the safety belt is too close to the direction of the tanker, making the operation somewhat unworkable.	We adjusted the position of the wire to place the safety belt. Also, we changed it to a thicker wire to increase its safety.
	When using a flashlight in dark places, I can only use one hand, and I feel that this situation is dangerous.	We will purchase lighting equipment that can be mounted on the helmet so that one can use both hands.
	When releasing pressure from pressure filter equipment, contents inside of the equipment spurted out, and it nearly covered my body.	To prevent any possibility of the contents spurting out, we installed on all the relevant equipment a pressure gauge to check the pressure inside the equipment and also installed a signboard with the cautionary words "make sure the pressure is zero."
	A display showing the direction of the flow on the filter's switch cock is hard to see because of dirt accumulation, and there is a danger of making an operation error.	We colored the gutter channels of the switch cock and made it easy to see the direction of the flow on the filter's switch cock.
	When I placed a bucket to take a sample for a bottle, the lye in the bucket splashed onto my face.	We set up a system for sampling directly from the pipe to the bottle. We made sure that operators wear total-shield-type protective gear.
	While loading the finishing agent through the funnel into the reaction-tank loading mouth, I lost my balance and almost fell.	Because the loading position was high, a special work bench of the appropriate height was placed there.
	On a staircase, non-slip tape became covered with paint, which made the staircase more slippery.	The non-slip tape was replaced.

Factors Leading to a Close-call	Reported Close-call Incidents	Improvement Action Plans *
Method	When I broke the 2m glass rod in order to discard it, the whole thing burst into pieces, scattering small pieces of glass. Because I was wearing a protective face shield and gloves, no injury occurred.	When you are breaking a glass rod, cover it with a sheet so that the pieces will not scatter.
	When I was putting a catalytic agent into a tank using a funnel, because the container was heavy it was difficult to pore it into the tank. Some of the liquid spilled and came in contact with my body.	By using a pump for feeding the catalytic agent into a tank, the problem of some of the liquid spilling will be eliminated.
	A glass bottle for sampling purposes was placed at the extraction area. However, there was some extraneous matter there and the glass bottle did not fit right. When I tried hard to tighten it so as to fit it in, the glass bottle broke.	We will add in our safety manual the process step of cleaning the adhered hardened material at the extraction area prior to placing the glass bottle in the area.
	By mistake, I operated the wrong valve, which resulted in a lowering of the tank liquid surface.	To prevent such a mistake, we will highlight the name of each valve in red.
	While carrying out a glass-disposal process with my safety glasses on, broken glass flew close to my face.	We will change the protective gear from safety glasses to a safety shield that covers the entire face area.
	When cleaning equipment with solvent and operating filtration in the same room at the same time, I feel there is a risk of ignition and explosion. The ventilation of the room needs to be improved.	We will re-evaluate the safety of the processes to identify potential risks. In addition, dangerous processes will be classified. Upon measurement, we will consider improving ventilation.
	Processing objects are becoming heavier than before. I nearly dropped one.	The operating procedures for handling heavy objects will be reviewed. In addition, we will consider installing labor-saving equipment.
	I am concerned that operators may be injured due to the improper installation of a heavy metal mold.	The procedures for carrying heavy metal molds and installation equipments will be reviewed to eliminate such a risk.
	Sometimes, I nearly forget to release pressure when removing a pressurized vessel. => I suggest that a pressure meter be installed so that the inside pressure can be checked.	The operating procedures are set forth in the written operating instructions and standards. We will examine if there is any problem with them and provide operators with training on them.

Factors Leading to a Close-call	Reported Close-call Incidents	Improvement Action Plans *
Method	When removing the filler cap for oil replenishment to the vacuum pump, I was nearly burned by spilled hot oil.	The operating procedures for oil replacement or replenishment are set forth in the written operating instructions and standards. We will examine if there is any problem with them and provide operators with training on them.
	There is a risk of a chemical burn when a vessel is directly put into a cleaning tank for acid-cleaning. (It must be made mandatory to wear an apron in addition to designated safety glasses and gloves.)	The procedures for acid-cleaning of containers will be reviewed to determine if there is any problem with it and to thoroughly familiarize operators with it.
	Chemicals splashed into my eye. => I did not wear safety glasses because I thought it was OK to wear only ordinary glasses. I learned that it is necessary to wear safety glasses even if wearing ordinary glasses. There are safety glasses designed for those who wear ordinary glasses.	We will instruct operators wearing ordinary glasses to wear special safety glasses or goggles, as we have already pointed out.
	Plastic boxes are piled too high on a cart. As a result, the pile collapses due to uneven floor surfaces or wind. There is a risk of such boxes hitting other operators.	We will rearrange the storage area and secure the routes for carts.
	I feel it is dangerous to improperly pile plastic cases or to push a cart with products protruding from the box.	The procedures for piling cases will be standardized and rules for moving products safely will be made.
	I nearly cut my finger when pushing hard pieces of quartz glass into a waste box.	We will standardize operating instructions, such as by explicitly starting to use anti-cut gloves, and give operators training about them.
	Boiled water splashed on me when a steam trap (condensed steam collector) was being replaced. It was dangerous.	The procedures for removing pipes will be clearly documented. In addition, we will ensure that we implement a hazard prediction activity (HPA).
Management	I tried to put the scissors back in their storage location, but the scissors did not get hooked to the hook and fell onto my feet.	We have changed the scissors storage location to a cylinder-shaped container.
	Stepladder inspections are carried out infrequently, and there is a risk that a stepladder may break due to corrosion or other factors. This could cause a person to tumble down or fall down.	Inspections of the stepladders are to be carried out once a month and the results will be recorded in an inspection maintenance log.
	When I put the stirring bar into the beaker and began stirring, suddenly the stirring bar began rotating and the liquid almost started to spatter.	We placed a tape on the stirrer's speed control knob so that the rotating speed adjustment volume can be easily seen.

New

Factors Leading to a Close-call	Reported Close-call Incidents	Improvement Action Plans *
Management	Because the work space is cramped, one can bang into the rack while holding a glass product and drop it, and there is a possibility someone could get hurt by a glass fragment.	To make the work space wider, we changed the location of the rack.
	When climbing the ladder in order to do the work of exchanging an air filter, my hand touched the steam drain pipe whose heat insulating material was peeling off and I almost got burnt.	The steam pipe's heat insulating material was repaired.
	The personal protective equipment used at the time of exchanging chemicals was changed, and now we are to wear chemical protective clothing. However, when the face shield and the gas mask are used together there is a space created in the face shield. I am concerned that chemicals may enter from this space.	The face shield and gas mask were changed to the type of gas mask that covers the entire face.
	We have added a section to the manual about how the equipment should be operated in case of flooding. However, we have not had training for it, and I am concerned about whether we can correctly operate the equipment in case of a flooding event.	We immediately planned and executed operation training for the case of a flooding event.
	There are no indications displayed concerning the switches for multiple pumps on the board. So I think it is possible to start a different pump by mistake.	Immediately, for each pump switch on the board, we added a display indication.
	At the time of the periodic inspection of the self-contained breathing apparatus, it was discovered that the alarm to warn of low residual pressure in the apparatus did not activate. Thus this apparatus cannot be used at a time of emergency.	We immediately renewed the self-contained breathing apparatus.
	There is no list of the equipment that will operate with an emergency generator at the time of a power failure in the electricity room, and so there is a possibility of a delay in dealing with the situation at the time of a power failure.	We posted the equipment list in each electricity room. Furthermore, in each electricity room we have displayed each equipment's administrative control section as well.

Factors Leading to a Close-call	Reported Close-call Incidents	Improvement Action Plans *
Management	On the floor, there is an anchor bolt left off from the time of construction, and there is a possibility of tripping over it.	We have removed the anchor bolt.
	When doing the daily nighttime inspection of the surrounding area of the outdoor facilities, the light switch is some distance away, and I feel uneasy about walking in the dark.	We installed a motion sensor light so that there will be light around that area.
	The multiple pressure gages used for reducing pressure of the gas cylinders are taken away for inspection at the same time due their having the same periodic inspection month. I am concerned that during this period un-serviced or inappropriate pressure gages that are not within the working pressure range may be mistakenly used.	The inspection months were changed so that the inspection months will not overlap.
	After using the toilet, when I opened the door, it struck the vacuum cleaner. Although there was no injury, because the lavatory is, in part, used as a storage area, there is a danger of things falling down or one might be likely to trip over some stuff.	We put things in order and tidied up by changing the storage location of things in the lavatory and put away or discarded the things that were not being used.
	The water level indicator of the cooling tower is in a hard to see position, and I had to perform an inspection by putting my foot on the piping.	A step stool was put in place and non-slip tape was pasted on its surface.
	The lighting for a fire alarm box was fading. I am concerned that there is a possibility that when there is a fire, the response may be delayed.	The lighting was immediately replaced by a new one.
	When the risk assessment of a small grinding machine and grinding work was performed, it was found that the safety panel can be easily removed.	The safety panel was altered so that it can only be removed by an exclusive key, and a change was made so that the removal of the panel will need the permission of the section leader.
	The opening for the purpose of inspection of a mulling machine's gear box is structured so that it opens easily, and I am concerned that you might put your hand into it by mistake and the hand could get caught.	A lock was installed for the inspection opening.
	When things were put in front of a stretcher storage box that is placed in the workplace, there was a possibility that when it is necessary you cannot speedily take out the stretcher.	The location to place the stretcher storage box was removed from the workplace to a passageway.

Factors Leading to a Close-call	Reported Close-call Incidents	Improvement Action Plans *
Management	There are times when the fluorescent light for emergencies in the storage room does not go on because the light bulb has burnt out. I am concerned that when the passageway is dark at night or in the case of an emergency you might not be able to see clearly enough the area ahead and you could trip or fall.	We upgraded the existing light by replacing it with a new LED emergency light, which has an extremely longer lifespan. In addition, we will now include the storage room emergency light in our regular periodic inspection plan.
	The pressure of the coolant water of the trial small-scale reactor is not measured in the facility building. For this reason, in a case where there is not sufficient supply pressure, there is a risk of the reactor running out of control due to the lack of coolant water.	We set up the pressure gage for the coolant water within the facility building so that one can see the supply pressure of the coolant.
	When cooling the product that was taken out of the electric furnace by covering the product with a heat-resistant cloth, I did not see any sign displaying the words: "Caution: Hot."	We put up a prominent display with the words: "Caution: Hot."
	The cart load-bearing capacity display is small, and there is a risk of a cart overturning due to loading cargo that is more than its load-bearing capacity.	We made the characters of the cart's load-bearing capacity display larger.
	There is a level difference at the entrance to the toilet, and it could cause one to stumble or trip.	We placed a fluorescent color safety strip of tape on the area of the upper part of the step so that people can clearly see that there is a level difference.
	Repair of the parts for the raw material feed pump is done only after discovering a malfunction. So if a part gets damaged during usage, liquid may spout out and could cause a chemical burn.	We will decide on a replacement cycle and will carry out a periodic exchange of the parts.
	When going down the staircase while holding on to the handrail, a metal fixture to hold pipes was attached to the handrail, and I almost hit my hand against it.	We changed the location of the metal fixture to hold pipes from the handrail to another location.
	The safety cover of a pump has a caution on it that reads, "Caution: Be careful to avoid being sucked in!" However, the color of the written characters of these words of caution has faded, making the words almost illegible. It is not getting the attention that the caution needs, and I am quite concerned.	A new caution label was attached to the safety cover.

Factors Leading to a Close-call	Reported Close-call Incidents	Improvement Action Plans *
Management	When inspecting a wheeled fire extinguisher, it could not be quickly taken out from its storage place, and I felt uneasy about its usage in the case of an emergency situation.	To better inform all the workers in the area how to easily remove the fire extinguisher, we attached at the storage place a photo showing the storage method so that the fire extinguisher can be taken out easily if it may become necessary.
	A display in the area of a sprinkler valve for cooling a cylinder is too small and hard to read. When it is necessary to carry out a cooling operation, it could delay the initiation of the necessary operation.	The display in the sprinkler valve area was replaced with one that is larger and easier to read.
	A rechargeable transceiver that is being used for communication purposes is not equipped to deal with the possibility of the battery's power being depleted.	A spare battery was made available at all times.
	A specific gravity conversion table is displayed at the worksite. However, the letters are small, and when making a change in quantity, there is a possibility of making a mistake.	The specific gravity conversion table was replaced with a table that has larger characters.
	There is no telephone number displayed on the telephone itself. So in case of an emergency, you cannot give the number of the telephone you are using, and there is a possibility that you would not be able to get a return call to keep in contact and receive	We clearly indicated the telephone number on the telephone so that anyone talking on that phone can instantly know the number of the telephone being used.
	In the laboratory, a flask that was exposed to sunlight turned into a condensing lens and burned a hose that was nearby.	We blocked out the sunlight by using blinds in the laboratory.
	The stop line on the road inside the plant and the lines that indicate the working area have faded away, and I am concerned that an accident might happen.	We re-drew the lines for the stop line and the lines indicating the working area. Moreover, we decided to carry out periodic inspections.
	When throwing waste into the wastebasket placed near the staircase, the cover of the wastebasket almost fell off and it might have fallen down the staircase.	We moved all wastebaskets placed near a staircase to other areas.
	When moving by car in an area near the place storing empty cans, a strong wind swept some of the empty cans away and they almost hit the car.	We installed an enclosure to the storage place for empty cans so that the empty cans will not be swept away by the wind.

Factors Leading to a Close-call	Reported Close-call Incidents	Improvement Action Plans *
Management	When making the rounds to carry out the inspection of machinery, we have to inspect them by going up on the machinery. At such times, there is a possibility of falling off of it.	We changed the placing of the inspection window so that one can inspect the machinery without going up on it.
	When making a routine inspection tour of the plant, I discovered that a reserve machine for a drainage pump, which is normally not in operation, was actually operating.	We have implemented a noticeable display of an "in-operation" tag so that the operation situation can be clearly understood.
	Parts of the manual for subdividing chemical units are difficult to understand. One could make an error in method, and that could lead to the danger of an injury caused by a chemical.	We are revising the manual so that it is easier to understand, including the way visuals are used.
	On the cylinder's pressure regulating valve, because there is no indicator of the maximum allowable operation pressure, there is a possibility of not noticing pressure abnormalities.	We have added an indicator of the maximum allowable operation pressure. In addition, we are creating a list of maximum allowable operation pressures for all of the pressure measuring instruments.
	Condensed water from steam is coming out onto the road. This condensed water could freeze, and then there would be a danger someone could slip on it.	We have improved the pipeline so that the condensed water from the steam does not come out onto the road.
	Because the condensation water of the vat heating steam is being released inside the room, the floor was wet.	We extended the steam pipes to outside of the building to let the condensation water go outside so that the floor on the inside of the building will not be wet.
	Because the permissible amount of the source gas is not posted at the workplace, I am concerned about toxicity.	We posted the permissible amount of the source gas at the workplace.
	In order to fill liquid products into a container, I went up to open the cover, my feet slipped and I almost fell.	We have placed an anti-skid material at the top area of the container.
	There is no "STOP" sign in an area of a T-junction on a busy traffic road. It could lead to a grave accident.	We set up a "STOP" indicator and sign on the road where it was needed.
	In the area of the tank lorry filling place, the hoses used for filling are scattered around and there is a risk of someone tripping over them.	A special-purpose hose rack was set up and everyone was instructed to make it a habit to return the hoses there after using them.

Factors Leading to a Close-call	Reported Close-call Incidents	Improvement Action Plans *
Management	Many pieces of paint coating are hanging down from the air-conditioner's duct, and there is a risk of these broken pieces falling and getting into one's eyes or of inhaling particles of them.	After removing all the pieces in the area where the paint coating was falling off, the area was repainted.
	When the camlock of a hose was loosened up to let acidic chemicals into the tank lorry, the cap noisily rattled off.	In cases where the pressure inside of a hose is expected to be high due to high temperature, the camlock should be gradually loosened so as to reduce the pressure inside the hose. This instruction was included in the operation manual.
	Liquid sludge splattered from a sieve and almost entered into my mouth.	We will recheck the sieve cover and also change the shape of the protective gear.
	I nearly fell over an object placed on the floor.	Designated areas will be clearly indicated. In addition, the managing method will be reviewed so that items are not placed anywhere other than in designated areas.
	A floor sheet had peeled away. I almost fell down when I carried rods to be processed.	We will take necessary actions immediately. When finding any hazards, please report it to your supervisor at the daily meeting. We will immediately carry out safety measures against the reported hazards.
	There is a risk that when walking down the steps of furnaces, an operator may catch his or her hand between the rail and the wall, and topple over, resulting in injury, as the gap is small.	We will check whether there are any hazards in buildings, walls, passageways, etc. and review management methods to ensure a safe work environment.
	Many external contractors visit the plant and many cars go back and forth on the premises. Traffic should be limited or banned for a certain period of time, such as lunch time.	The entry of vehicles is restricted according to the traffic rules in each plant. We will review whether any areas or times are hazardous.
	During night patrol, I feel the weighing place is dark. Outdoor lights are needed.	Though the luminosity is checked through work environment assessment, we will check it again around the area that was pointed out.
	The women's working uniform for the summer season is loose, especially around the waist. It is dangerous that the loose clothing could easily get caught. Clothes that properly fit bodies might be better.	In addition to the problem pointed out, we will review all of the working uniforms from the safety aspect.

Factors Leading to a Close-call	Reported Close-call Incidents	Improvement Action Plans *
Management	In the passageway where steel plates were laid, a cart got stuck and nearly toppled over because there were gaps between the steel plates.	We will take necessary actions immediately. When finding any hazards, please report it to your supervisor at the daily meeting. We will immediately carry out safety measures to counteract the reported hazards.
	There are a lot of hazardous raw materials. I think that we need to prepare a list of hazardous materials to re-evaluate the danger levels of the materials.	In accordance with our management standards, hazardous materials are stored and the quantity of hazardous materials is controlled. We will check the status of hazardous materials daily and review the manner of conducting safety training, such as the frequency of the training.
	There are some places where rain water leaks through. I am concerned that such rain water may enter the control panels of machines, causing trouble such as a short-circuit.	The problem area pointed out will be located and repaired immediately.
	The cover of a trench was taken off and I nearly fell into the trench.	We will ensure that we take appropriate measures to prevent someone from tripping or falling in when a cover has been removed and to ensure that the cover is replaced when the work is completed.
	When I was about to weigh a container containing oil, some oil was spilling over. The container slipped from my hands and almost hit a pipe.	We will carry out 4S activities -- <i>Seiri</i> (Sorting), <i>Seiton</i> (Straightening up), <i>Seisou</i> (Cleaning up) and <i>Seiketsu</i> (Practice cleanliness) at the particular workplace, on the equipment and at the entire facility. We will ensure that the spilled oil is wiped up immediately.
Others	My health condition deteriorated after completing a normal workday in a workshop with high indoor temperatures. I tried cooling my body by pouring water on it, but I did not recover and my limbs cramped up.	Spot coolers have been installed to improve the work environment.
	The names of the chemicals are displayed on the sides of the two side-by-side chemical tanks; however, in the area of operation there is no display, and so I am concerned that one might make a mistake.	The names of the chemicals are now also to be displayed in the area of operation.
	When I tried to move, I almost bumped my face against the edge of the transparent protective plastic desk shield (made of PVC), which is set up on both sides of the desk to prevent the transmission of airborne droplets. I felt that it was a really close-call.	On the edges of the clear plastic shields, we applied colored tape so that the edges are clearly recognizable.

Factors Leading to a Close-call	Reported Close-call Incidents	Improvement Action Plans *
Others	I was working on a machinery start-up operation while the outdoor temperature was high, wearing a mask so as to protect infection from the new coronavirus. I began to feel sick and lost physical strength during the operation, and under the direction of my supervisor, I rested in an area where there was a good breeze while holding ice packs on my body and a supply of water to rehydrate myself. After a while I recovered and my physical condition returned to normal.	When one can secure sufficient distance between people and when the work does not involve close contact with other people, you can take your mask off and make sure to stay hydrated.
	When I stepped on an unused roller conveyor, the roller started to roll, and there is a risk that one could fall.	All the unused roller conveyors were removed.
	There is no cover for the drain ditch left in that state after equipment was removed, and there is concern that it might cause one to trip.	In addition to installing a grating over the drain ditch, we also eliminated the level difference of the ground that was left after the removal of the equipment.
	In the garage for company cars, there is no car parking block so when one goes too far back, there is a danger of bumping into the wall.	We installed a car parking block to prevent a car from hitting the wall.
	In the locker room where we change clothes, there was a crack in a wooden floor grate, and I almost got my foot caught in it.	We changed from using a wooden floor grate that could crack to a mat that does not crack.
	In the passageway for employees coming to or leaving from work, I almost fell when walking on a checkered steel plate that was wet due to rain.	We put anti-slip tape on the checkered steel plate.
	I found a gap in the grating of a gutter cover. I felt it might become dangerous if one's toes or the wheels of a dolly got caught there.	We closed the gap in the grating by installing a steel plate.
	The goggles to protect the eyes have rubber straps that become stretched in about six months, and there is a possibility that the goggles will not be able to adequately perform their protective function.	We switched to use a different maker's goggles that had better results in durability tests.

Factors Leading to a Close-call	Reported Close-call Incidents	Improvement Action Plans *
Others	A dolly was placed in a blind-spot area in the hallway, and I almost bumped into it.	A place to store the dolly was set up, and at the same time, a display was installed to indicate the proper place to store the dolly.
	While operating a fork lift, when I turned the handle, the earphone cord for the transceiver got caught between the handle and it gave me a fright.	We stopped the use of earphones and decided to use only the transceiver main itself.
	When walking at a corner in an indoor corridor, because I was unable to see ahead, I almost bumped into a person who was coming from another direction.	We installed a half dome safety mirror at the corner.
	At an intersection in the plant, the "STOP" sign is hard to see because of a planted tree.	We trimmed the tree branches.
	When I was operating a forklift, there was a strong wind. Dust got in my eyes and the visibility became so low that I almost caused a collision.	When there is a strong wind, we will make sure that workers wear protective safety glasses.
	I am sometimes concerned that problems are not detected quickly enough because there is not a sufficient number of operators and each operator has too many tasks, causing operators to become careless. Measures need to be taken based on a new way of thinking, both in terms of equipment and management.	We will promote the automation and installation of labor-saving equipment to reduce the burden on operators.
	At automatic doors or gates, the other side can not be seen through. I nearly collided with other operators even when taking care to avoid such an accident.	To avoid operators having to take action by guesswork, we will provide training for operators to be sure to be especially aware of assuring the safety of those around them before starting work. For some areas, sensors and flashing lights will be used to ensure safety.