



Weekly Safety Tip

Blue Stop Sign

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A Public Safety Moment



Color me surprised.

Blue stop signs really do exist!

Here's where you'll find them, what they mean, and what to do if you see one on the road.

In a world of [confusing road signs](#), there's one that's never hard to figure out: STOP.

Way before driver's education, we all knew the key details about its shape and what to do when you saw one. Heck, even a toddler can tell you that stop signs are red.

That's because since the 1950s, red has been the required background color for all government-regulated stop signs in the United States.

But you might be surprised to learn that in the early days of automobile traffic, [yellow stop signs](#) were prevalent. Weird to think about in retrospect, right?

But even more of an oddity is the elusive **blue STOP sign**. Yes, they exist, and if you've never seen one, you might do a double-take. But where are they found, and what does a blue stop sign mean? (You know, aside from stop?)

To get to the bottom of this traffic-control anomaly, we asked Shashi Nambisan, PhD, director of the Transportation Research Center at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and Nathan Kautz, a senior transportation safety engineer with Kittelson & Associates, a transportation engineering and planning consulting firm.

Here's what they had to say.

Why are stop signs typically red?

There are a few reasons.

1st, red is the easiest color to see from the farthest distance. This gives drivers plenty of time to identify the stop sign and slow down.

2nd, red is often associated with danger, telling you to proceed with caution. That's why car brake lights and [traffic lights](#) are red, and the same is true of stop signs.

In the U.S., "the shape and colors of signs (including stop signs) are identified in a document known as the **Manual on Uniform Control of Traffic Devices** (MUCTD)," Nambisan says.

It was in 1954 that the MUCTD codified red stop signs with white lettering, moving away from the aforementioned yellow background after advancements in fade-resistant finishes helped with nighttime visibility.

So, again, what is a blue stop sign?

A blue stop sign is a blue and white octagonal sign that indicates you should make a full and complete stop before driving again. It functions just like a red one—it just [happens to be blue](#).

The difference between blue stop signs and red stop signs comes down to where they can legally be installed and where in the country you're most likely to spot them.

Weekly Safety Share



Near Misses

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SAFETY SHARE on Near Misses

Identifying, investigating, and taking action on near misses is the pro-active element to finding & controlling risks before employees are injured or property is damaged.

What is a near miss

A near miss is an *unplanned event* that didn't result in an injury, illness or damage, but had a potential to do so.

An event, circumstance, condition or behavior with the potential to cause injury, illness, accidental release or property/productivity loss – but did not actualize due to chance, corrective action and/or timely intervention.

Why is near miss reporting important?

Reporting and investigating accidents or incidents that have occurred is effective and efficient, but reactive.

If we report and investigate near misses, we can implement an accident/incident prevention strategy that is proactive rather than reactive.

Benefits of having a near miss reporting culture in place:

1. It enables us to proactively resolve hazards before a tragic or costly event occurs.
2. It engages the workforce (at all levels) in preventing possible future accidents/ incidents before they occur.
3. It increases safety ownership and reinforces workers' self-esteem.
4. It exposes valuable information that otherwise might not be discussed.
5. It develops a positive, proactive and necessary attitude surrounding safety.

How to report a near miss event

There are many variants to how businesses currently report their near miss events. However, if we make our near miss reporting process too complicated or time-consuming, events will go unreported.

Typical sources of near miss data

Normally this data is available through the following sources or activities:

1. Internal audit/inspection reports that include actions/recommendations.
2. Near miss reports.
3. Accident/incident investigation reports.
4. Safety engagement with a team through colleague feedback and suggestions.
5. Internal or external safety alerts.
6. Accident statistics (monthly - if you stay on top of them versus annually - if you react way later).
7. External HSE statistics and safety bulletins from within your industry and nationally publicized incidents.



A near miss event in the workplace is a warning, or an indication that something is wrong.



Any near miss event should be corrected immediately, to prevent reoccurrence.



All colleagues that witness, or are involved with a near miss event, must stop and report the event.



Do not walk by and ignore a near miss event. Stop what you are doing and report it.

SHARE Source: excerpts from a [Notifly](#) e-book

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