Autumn safety moment: fall season toolbox talk

29 CFR 1926.56, 1910.22, 1926.601, 1926.51, 1926.154, 1926.35

Date _____ Trainer _____ Location _____

Opening question

What changes on your drive in and on the job once fall sets in?

Why it matters

Fall brings shorter days, cold mornings, warm afternoons and wet, slippery ground. The changes creep up on us, and we keep working like it is still summer. A few small adjustments keep the season's hazards from catching anyone off guard.

Key points

1. **Shorter days need more light**
   Fall means more work at dawn and dusk. Construction areas, ramps, runways, corridors, offices, shops and storage areas must be lit to at least the minimum levels in OSHA's Table D-3 while any work is in progress. Report burned-out lights, move lighting as the work moves, and wear high-visibility clothing near traffic and equipment.
   29 CFR 1926.56(a)

2. **Watch your step on leaves and frost**
   Wet leaves, mud and early frost make walkways, steps, ramps and ladder rungs slick. OSHA's general industry rule says walking-working surfaces must be kept free of hazards such as leaks, spills, snow and ice. Clear leaves early, take shorter steps on frosty mornings, and wear eye and hearing protection when you run a leaf blower.
   29 CFR 1910.22(a)(3)

3. **Adjust to the time change**
   When clocks fall back, the drive home can happen in the dark, and your sleep can be off for a few days. Tired workers react slower and miss hazards, so get enough rest and speak up if you are too tired to work or drive safely. Watch for school buses, kids walking and deer near the road at dawn and dusk. On construction jobsites closed to public traffic, vehicles must have working headlights and taillights whenever visibility calls for more light.
   29 CFR 1926.601(b)(2)(i)

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4 Dress for temperature swings

A frosty morning can turn into a warm afternoon. Wear layers you can take off and put back on, and keep a dry layer in the truck in case you get wet. You can still get dehydrated in cool weather, and an adequate supply of drinking water must be provided at every workplace.

29 CFR 1926.51(a)(1)

5 Run heaters safely

Temporary heaters come out as nights get colder. On construction sites, fresh air must be supplied in sufficient quantities to keep workers healthy and safe, with mechanical ventilation where natural fresh air is not enough. Never run fuel-burning heaters or engines in a closed space without ventilation, because carbon monoxide has no smell.

29 CFR 1926.154(a)(1)

6 Plan for storms and new faces

Depending on where you work, fall can bring hurricanes, high winds, heavy rain or early snow. Know how to report an emergency, where to go, and who takes the head count. Where an OSHA standard requires an emergency action plan, the employer must review with each employee, when first assigned, the parts they need to know. Walk new and seasonal workers through it.

29 CFR 1926.35(e)(3)

Scenario

Picture this: It is the first week after the clocks fall back. A crew is loading tools onto a trailer as the sun goes down. The work lights have not been moved since summer, the ramp to the trailer is covered in wet leaves, and one worker in a dark hoodie is standing near the truck as it backs up. What would you fix first, and who should fix it?

Crew discussion

1. Where on our site does it get dark first, and is the lighting there good enough?
2. Which walkways, steps or ramps collect leaves or frost, and who clears them?
3. How has the time change affected your drive or your sleep, and what helps?
4. Do you know our plan if a storm or high winds hit during a shift?

Bottom line **Fall changes the light, the ground and the weather, so change your habits with it.**

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Sign-in sheet / Hoja de asistencia

Topic / Tema Fall season safety / Seguridad en otoño

Date / Fecha _____

Trainer / Instructor _____ Location / Lugar _____ Company / Empresa _____

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