Halloween safety moment: a free toolbox talk

29 CFR 1926.95, 1910.37, 1904.35, 1926.21, 1910.157, 1926.20

Date _____ Trainer _____ Location _____

Opening question

What is the scariest thing you could run into at work this Halloween that has nothing to do with ghosts?

Why it matters

Halloween brings costumes, decorations, treats and longer nights. None of that is dangerous on its own. The trouble starts when it mixes with machines, vehicles and busy walkways. A few minutes of thought now keeps the holiday fun and the crew whole.

Key points

1. **Costumes stay off the job unless they are safe**
   A mask can block your view. A long cape or loose fabric can catch on a machine or a door. Face paint, wigs and props can get in the way of safety glasses, hard hats and gloves. If your crew has a dress-up day, keep the costume simple and never let it replace or interfere with required protective equipment.
   29 CFR 1926.95(a)

2. **Decorations cannot block the way out**
   Fake cobwebs, hay bales, inflatables and boxes of candy have a way of ending up in hallways and doorways. Keep every exit route clear, even for a short time. Keep decorations away from heaters, lights and hot equipment, and keep fire extinguishers easy to reach.
   29 CFR 1910.37(a)(3)

3. **Watch the road and the dark**
   Many people are out on foot after dark, and many of them are children in dark costumes. If your drive home or your route for deliveries goes through neighborhoods, slow down and keep your eyes up. Put the phone away. In work zones, make sure signs, lights and reflective vests are working.

4. **No pranks around equipment**
   A jump scare near a forklift, a ladder or a saw is not a joke. Startled people drop loads, lose their footing and move into the path of machines. Save the scares for after the shift and away from the work area.

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5 **Treats and parties have rules too**

Check labels before sharing food, because allergies are real and serious. Keep food and drink out of areas where chemicals or dust are present. If any celebration includes alcohol after work, plan a safe ride home before the first drink.

6 **Report it if something goes wrong**

A small cut from carving a pumpkin at the break table still counts. Tell your supervisor about injuries and close calls, big or small. You should know how to report them.

29 CFR 1904.35(b)(1)(ii)

Scenario

Picture this: It is the last shift before Halloween. A worker comes in wearing a long, loose costume with a big mask. He climbs onto the loading dock to help move boxes. The mask cuts off his side view, and the cape catches on a pallet jack handle. Nearby, a pile of decorations has been stacked in front of the side door. What should have been done differently, and who could have stopped it?

Crew discussion

1. What costume or decoration would be a problem in our area, and why?
2. Where are our exits and extinguishers, and is anything in front of them today?
3. How do we make sure nobody gets startled around moving equipment?
4. What is your plan for getting home safely on Halloween night?

Bottom line **Enjoy Halloween, but keep exits clear, protective equipment on and jokes away from the work.**

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Sign-in sheet / Hoja de asistencia

Topic / Tema Halloween safety / Seguridad en Halloween

Date / Fecha _____

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

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