Labor Day safety toolbox talk

29 CFR 1926.21, 1926.51, 1904.35, 1926.20, 1910.37, 1910.38

Date _____ Trainer _____ Location _____

Opening question

What is one thing that helps you go home in the same shape you came to work?

Why it matters

Labor Day honors working people. The best way to honor a crew is to make sure everyone goes home safe, every day. The holiday also marks the end of summer, with long travel, cookouts and still-hot days. A few simple reminders keep the weekend and the week after it safe.

Key points

1. **Honor the work by working safely**
   Safe work is respect for yourself and for the people who count on you. That means following the rules, using the right equipment and looking out for each other. Employers must train each employee in recognizing and avoiding unsafe conditions and the rules that apply to their work.
   29 CFR 1926.21(b)(2)

2. **Do not rush the last shift**
   A short week can lead to hurrying, and hurrying leads to shortcuts. Plan the last shift so nobody is rushing on a ladder, a lift or a truck. If a task cannot be done safely before the break, let it wait.

3. **Late summer heat is still heat**
   The weather may feel like it is winding down, but hot days can still make people sick. Drink water often, rest in the shade and watch for signs of heat illness in yourself and coworkers. Drinking water must be available at work.
   29 CFR 1926.51(a)(1)

4. **Travel and cookouts need planning**
   Roads are crowded on the holiday weekend. Rest before you drive, buckle up, keep the phone down and never drive after drinking. At cookouts, keep grills outdoors and away from buildings, and keep food at a safe temperature.

5. **Speak up about hazards and injuries**
   No one should feel like they have to hide a small injury or a close call. Report them. Employers must tell each employee how to report work-related injuries and illnesses. Reports help the crew fix problems before someone gets hurt.
   29 CFR 1904.35(b)(1)(ii)

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6 **Walk the site when you return**

On the first day back, take a few minutes to look over the site, tools and equipment. Check for changes, damage or anything moved while you were gone. Fix or report it before starting.

29 CFR 1926.20(b)(2)

Scenario

Picture this: It is the Friday before Labor Day. A worker has a small cut on his hand but says nothing because he does not want to slow the crew before the holiday. Over the weekend, it gets infected. On Tuesday he returns, tired, and tries to finish a rushed task. His supervisor never walked the site, so a broken ladder is still in service. What could each person have done differently?

Crew discussion

1. What does working safely say about how we treat each other?
2. Is there any injury or close call you hesitated to report, and why?
3. How can we make speaking up easier on this crew?
4. What is your plan for a safe drive this weekend?

Bottom line **The best way to honor the work is to make sure everyone goes home safe, today and after the holiday.**

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Sign-in sheet / Hoja de asistencia

Topic / Tema Labor Day safety / Seguridad en el Día del Trabajo

Date / Fecha _____

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

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