Memorial Day toolbox talk: long weekend safety

29 CFR 1926.21, 1926.20, 1926.51, 1910.37, 1910.157, 1904.35

Date _____ Trainer _____ Location _____

Opening question

What is your plan to get through this long weekend and back to work in one piece?

Why it matters

Memorial Day weekend is a time to remember those who died serving the country, and it marks the start of summer for many people. It also means travel, cookouts, sun, water and long days. The hazards come with us from the job to the weekend and back. A few reminders now help everyone return safe.

Key points

1. **Finish the week without rushing**
   A short week can push people to hurry. Rushing leads to skipped steps and shortcuts. Plan the last shift so nobody is hurrying on a ladder, a lift or a truck. If a task cannot be done safely before the break, it waits.
   29 CFR 1926.21(b)(2)

2. **Leave the site secure**
   Put tools away, lock up equipment, block off open edges and holes, and leave nothing in walkways or exits. Make sure the site is safe for anyone who passes by over the weekend.
   29 CFR 1926.20(b)(2)

3. **Travel safely**
   Roads are busy on a long weekend. Get rest, plan your route and stops, buckle up and keep the phone down. Never drive after drinking or while tired. If you are the one who is tired, hand over the keys.

4. **Grill and cook outdoors with care**
   Grills belong outdoors, on a flat surface and well away from buildings, decks and trees. Never leave a grill unattended and keep children and pets back. Keep water or a fire extinguisher handy. Wash hands and keep raw and cooked food apart.

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5 Beat the heat and watch the water

Early summer heat catches people off guard. Drink water often, take breaks in the shade and wear a hat and sunscreen. At the job, drinking water must be available. Near pools, lakes and rivers, never swim alone or after drinking, and keep an eye on children.

29 CFR 1926.51(a)(1)

6 Ease back in on the first shift

The first day after a long weekend is a good time for a short safety talk and a walk around the site. Check for anything that changed, was moved or was damaged while you were gone. Take it slowly if you are tired or sunburned.

Scenario

Picture this: It is the Friday before Memorial Day. A crew is trying to finish a task before lunch. The foreman skips the last inspection and leaves a trench unmarked and a ladder against the wall. On Tuesday morning, a worker back from a sunny weekend, tired and dehydrated, starts work without a walk-through. What would you check first, and what could have been done on Friday to make Tuesday safer?

Crew discussion

1. What do we need to do to leave the site secure today?
2. Who is driving a long way this weekend, and how will you stay rested?
3. What is your plan for staying cool and drinking enough water outdoors?
4. What should we check as a crew on the first morning back?

Bottom line **Finish the shift safely, enjoy the weekend with care and take a careful look before work starts again.**

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Sign-in sheet / Hoja de asistencia

Topic / Tema: Memorial Day weekend safety / Seguridad en el fin de semana de Memorial Day

Date / Fecha: _____

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

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