Thanksgiving safety moment: holiday week toolbox talk

29 CFR 1926.20, 1910.138, 1926.51, 1926.21, 1910.37, 1910.157

Date _____ Trainer _____ Location _____

Opening question

What is riskiest about your Thanksgiving: the last shift, the drive or the kitchen?

Why it matters

Thanksgiving week packs a lot into a few days: a short work week, a push to finish, long drives, big meals and late nights. Each one can pull your focus away from the job or the road. A few minutes of planning can keep the holiday about family and food, not an emergency.

Key points

1. **Do not race the clock before the break**
   Short weeks can turn into a rush, and rushing can lead to skipped steps and shortcuts. Plan the last shift so nobody is hurrying on a ladder, a lift or a forklift. If a task cannot be done safely before the holiday, it waits. In stores and warehouses the busy season is starting, so make sure new and seasonal workers know the hazards before they start.

2. **Secure the site, then check it when you return**
   Before you leave, put away tools and materials, lock up equipment, and cover or guard holes and open edges so nobody wanders into them. Shut off heaters that nobody will be watching. When work restarts, walk the site first, because conditions can change while you are away. Construction safety programs must provide for frequent and regular inspections of job sites, materials and equipment by competent persons (29 CFR 1926.20(b)(2)).
   29 CFR 1926.20(b)(2)

3. **Travel rested, sober and buckled up**
   Roads can be crowded over the holiday. Get a good night's sleep before a long drive, take breaks, and switch drivers if you get drowsy. Never drive after drinking; plan a sober ride before the celebration starts. Put the phone away and make sure everyone in the vehicle wears a seat belt.

4. **Fry the turkey outside and never leave it**
   If you fry a turkey, do it outdoors on a flat surface, well away from the house, garage, deck and anything that can burn. Thaw and dry the bird completely first, because ice or water hitting hot oil can make it boil over and catch fire. Do not overfill the pot, never leave the fryer alone, and keep kids and pets away. Keep a fire extinguisher close by, and never throw water on a grease fire.

5 Watch knives, hot oil and wet floors

Carve on a stable cutting board with a sharp knife, cut away from your body and keep your other hand clear of the blade. Turn pot handles inward, use dry oven mitts and wipe up spills right away. In general industry, employers must select and require appropriate hand protection when hands are exposed to hazards such as severe cuts or thermal burns (29 CFR 1910.138(a)), and walking-working surfaces must be kept free of hazards such as spills (29 CFR 1910.22(a)(3)).

29 CFR 1910.138(a)

6 Keep the work potluck safe

Wash your hands before you eat, especially after working with chemicals or lead. No employee may be allowed to eat or drink in a toilet room or in any area exposed to a toxic material (29 CFR 1926.51(g) and 1910.141(g)(2)). Keep hot food hot and cold food cold, and put leftovers in the refrigerator promptly. Set up tables away from exit routes, which must stay free and unobstructed (29 CFR 1910.37(a)(3)).

29 CFR 1926.51(g)

Scenario

Picture this: It is the afternoon before Thanksgiving, and the crew wants to get on the road. They skip covering a floor opening, leave a pallet of block near an open edge, and toss loose tools in the truck bed. That night, the foreman starts a long drive on little sleep, and the next day his brother sets up a turkey fryer on the wooden deck. How many hazards can you spot, and what would you do differently?

Crew discussion

1. What jobs do we tend to rush before a long weekend, and how can we plan them better?
2. What has to be secured on this site before we leave for the holiday?
3. Who is driving far this weekend, and what is your plan to stay rested and sober?
4. What would you do if a turkey fryer or a pan of oil caught fire?

Bottom line

Slow down before the break, secure the site, travel rested and sober, and treat hot oil and sharp knives with respect so everyone comes back safe.

Free to share and adapt for non-commercial use under the CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 license (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0). Credit: ToolboxKits, toolboxkits.com/topics/thanksgiving-safety/

Sign-in sheet / Hoja de asistencia

Topic / Tema: Thanksgiving safety / Seguridad en el Día de Acción de Gracias

Date / Fecha: _____

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

#	Name Nombre	Signature Firma	Company Empresa	Date Fecha
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Trainer signature / Firma del instructor: _____ Time / Hora: _____

ToolboxKits by ALC Media LLC. Not affiliated with OSHA or the U.S. Department of Labor. Not legal advice.