



December 1, 2016

Holiday Workplace Safety

For a lot of us, we are in the midst of our favorite time of year. The holidays offer a welcome distraction from our routine, and opportunities for social engagement and family time that are unique. With them however come some safety considerations that we should remain mindful of;

Decorations: Take care with decorations in the office/shop, especially lights and candles. Don't display them in such a way that could create a hazard by allowing them to come in contact with combustible materials or furnishings. Use caution when adding extra load to your local electrical system, and unplug/turn everything off when the space is unstaffed. Do not allow decorations to obstruct emergency equipment and exits. Ensure cords and plugs are in good repair, and remember that things like spray snow and "angel hair" can be flammable, or have nuisance properties (contact, breathing, i.e.) associated with them. Furniture and chairs are not suitable substitutes for a step ladder when decorating.

Apparel: Aside from being in good taste, costumes should not interfere with your work, or create hazards with loose, draping material, ties, strings, or other elements that can catch or snag, or create a tripping hazard. Avoid masks that limit your ability to see what's going on around you.

Parties/Food: Make sure food for parties or pot lucks is prepared, transported, and served with care. Some foods are safer than others in situations where refrigeration is not available, however try to limit the amount of time that any food is allowed to sit exposed on tables/counters. Use crock pots for hot foods to keep them at a safe temperature. Consider any food allergies your coworkers may have when choosing what you will serve, and make sure adequate service wear is available, and that it gets washed/replaced periodically. Many hands touching the same utensils, in the middle of cold and flu season, can contribute to the spread of illness.

Personal accountability: Exercise responsible behavior during the holidays. Don't drink and drive, or engage in other risky activities. Keep in mind that there are more distracted and possibly impaired people around you. Maintain situational awareness and correct or report any potential hazards you encounter.

General: Timelines are condensed, staffing is reduced, weather can be uncooperative, and work volume can be at increased levels. Take your time, don't cut corners, and use the tools and assistance available to you as normally would.

UPCOMING TRAINING

Monthly Occupational Safety Training

Location: Boise State University, Pioneer Hall 102
Date: December 21, 2016 - 2-3 p.m.

Event canceled for this month.

First Aid, CPR, AED

Location: Boise State University
Date: TBD

Contact EHSS for details.

FROM THE INTERNET



[100 winter safety resources](#)

Source: safetyawakenings.com



[Tips for preventing the flu](#)

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

SAFETY BRAIN TEASER

What's wrong with this picture?



Last month's teaser: There were 15 hazards noted, among them are hands outside the cage, operator not wearing safety shoes, or his seat belt, unsecured propane bottle, moving an elevated load, snag hazard on the load, missing/obstructed safety equipment, and bystanders not paying attention.

MANAGER'S CORNER

“Safety culture is defined as the shared group values or accepted social norms among workers, and is often difficult to change. Safety climate is defined as a snapshot in time of a company, which is often situational and rather temporary.”

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS...

Please feel free to contact us to provide feedback on the content of this newsletter, or to suggest topics that you would like to see addressed, or inquire about training you wish to participate in.

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