CrewSigned

Holiday Safety Toolbox Talk

5-minute read-aloud · Last reviewed November 24, 2026

The holidays are a good time of year, but they also bring a pile-up of risks. Everyone is trying to finish jobs before the break, the days are short, people are tired, and there is a lot going on at home. Today I want to talk about keeping our heads in the game for the next few weeks so everyone gets to enjoy the time off.

The first risk is rushing. Customers want their job done before the holidays, and so do we. That pressure is when people skip steps: no tie-off for a quick task, no lockout for a fast fix, no inspection of the ladder. If a deadline and safety ever conflict, safety wins, and I will back you on that. Tell me if the schedule is pushing you into a shortcut.

The second is fatigue and distraction. Late nights, shopping, family plans, travel and stress all follow you to work. A tired or distracted mind misses hazards. Get sleep when you can, and if you are not fit to work safely on a given day, tell me.

The third is darkness. It gets dark early this time of year. Work areas, parking areas and walkways that were fine at four in the afternoon in July are dark now. Use temporary lighting, wear high-visibility clothing, and carry a light.

The fourth is decorations. If you are hanging lights at home, at a customer's place or here at the shop, treat it like any other job. Use a ladder that is in good shape and set up right, not a chair. Use outdoor-rated cords and lights, check them for damage, and plug outdoor lights into a GFCI outlet. Do not overload outlets or run cords under rugs or through doorways where they get pinched.

The fifth is the road. Holiday traffic is heavy, the weather can turn bad fast, and more impaired drivers are out. Slow down, leave extra space, and keep your phone down. If you are going to a party, plan a sober ride home before you go. It is not worth your license, your job or a life.

Look out for each other. If a coworker seems worn out or off, check in. Let us finish the year strong and all come back in January.

Discussion questions

1. What jobs are we trying to finish before the break, and where could rushing lead to a shortcut?
2. Which work areas get dark early this time of year, and do we need more lighting?
3. What is your plan to get home safely from holiday gatherings?

OSHA standard

OSH Act of 1970, Section 5, Duties
https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/oshact/section5-duties

SOURCES

Winter Driving Safety (OSHA): https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/SAFEDRIVING.pdf
Extension Cords: 5 Things to Know (OSHA 4495): https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/OSHA4495.pdf
Ladder Safety QuickCard (OSHA 3246): https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/PORTABLE_LADDER_QC.pdf
NIOSH, Motor Vehicle Safety at Work: https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/motor-vehicle/about/index.html

This talk does not replace training that an OSHA standard requires. Scripts are based on OSHA and NIOSH publications and rewritten in plain language.

Safety Meeting Sign-In Sheet

TOPIC

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COMPANY

JOB / SITE

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TIME

PRESENTER

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