

WINTER HOLIDAY SEASON

Winter Holiday Season

The “Winter Holiday” season is unlike our other holidays. Instead of a day or a long weekend, the holiday period lasts a couple of weeks.

All during that time shopping is being done, parties are being given (and attended), trips are being made, relatives and friends are arriving (and staying), huge meals are being prepared and eaten, and, well, the list goes on and on.

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Our employees are under a lot of stress during this time, and it can reflect on our safe work place. The stressors lead to distracted workers, and the time off can lead to a “return to reality” lag after the holidays are over.

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We need to be on the lookout for distracted employees or employees who are becoming “stressed out.”

We need to spend additional time with our people, observing their performance, but also making sure they know that we are genuinely interested in them and any issues or problems they have.

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It is also a good idea to take a little extra time with employees at the beginning of their first workday after a holiday absence. A short (30 minute) “welcome back stand down” may be a good way to get everyone refocused on the workplace and their safety. You can take the time to pass out information they may have missed, and let the returning employees get back “in the swing.”