



LAGNIAPPE

MONTHLY EMPLOYEE NEWS



Power Tool Safety By: Jeremy Olivier, Lofton Safety Services

Whether utilized at home or on the job site, power tools make our work easier. However, their use does not come without additional risk. In order to benefit from their advantages without increasing the chance of injury, it is important to know the risks involved and the proper methods of negating them.

Always make sure to select the right tool for the task to be completed. In addition, power tools often have many possible attachments. Read the instruction manual fully to understand the nature of its operation and proper attachment selection. Once selected, the power tool should be inspected thoroughly. If it has a cord, ensure it is intact and free from damage. It should have a grounded plug. Make sure any shields or guards are properly installed and are in overall good physical condition. Test the tool for proper function before commencing the job.

There are also important considerations for the work area and personal protective equipment (PPE). Always ensure the work area is clean and free of debris. If your power tool has a cord, try to route it as to not create a tripping hazard. Keep cords away from and out of water. If you are grinding or cutting, ensure no combustible materials are in the area which may be contacted and ignited by sparks. Always wear safety



glasses to avoid foreign material entering the eyes. For grinding operations, a face shield must also be worn to provide maximum protection. Avoid wearing loose clothing, which may become snagged by rotating or reciprocating tools. If gloves are worn, they should be thin and tight fitting. This precaution also applies to jewelry and long hair. Remove all jewelry and tie up long hair to prevent them from becoming entangled. Power tools can be loud. Always wear hearing protection, especially for work over long periods of time. Power tools require your full attention and concentration. Never use power tools if you are tired, sick, distracted, or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

When work is complete, always clean the power tool and work area thoroughly. If the tool is corded, ensure the power switch is in the off position before unplugging it. Neatly roll up the cord and store the tool in a location where it will be protected. If the tool is battery operated, make sure you place the batteries on the charger so that they are fully charged for the next job. If any tools, their cords, or batteries are damaged, repair or replace them (as applicable) before the next use.

You've Been Caught



Special shout-out to **Officer Christopher Boudreaux**, Lafayette. Kerrie, Risk Mgt. Coordinator, reached out on a few occasions to let us know how much they appreciate Chris. "We are definitely happy with Chris. We have a high level of trust with Chris and we have

actually given him more duties to assist with reviewing our security videos. He is a tremendous asset to our team, and we love working with him every day. Thank you and your team for finding the perfect fit for our company. Chris is the best!"

"I echo everything she said. He is a pleasure to work with, always respectful and willing to help with whatever is needed. He is prompt and thorough with his reporting. Thank you for finding a great fit for us!" - Amy, Senior V.P. Risk Mgt.

"Chris has been with us since 2018. Every client site he has worked absolutely LOVES him and have tried to keep him on their site." - Janet Courville, Lofton Area Manager

Outstanding job, Chris! It's officers like you that make the difference with our clients, each other, and the community. I hope you inspire others to let their light shine.



December 2024

December 21

First Day of Winter



December 24

Christmas Eve



December 25

Christmas
Hanukkah Begins



December 31

New Year's Eve





The Giving Tree

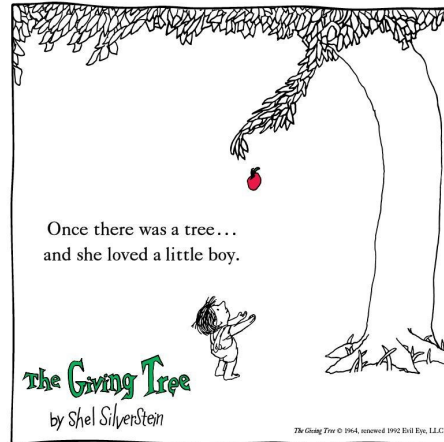
By: Glenda Lofton, Ph.D.

Christmas is always a special time for me and my family. The celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ sparks the desire to give...endlessly. This selfless giving is the subject of one of my favorite books that I would frequently read to my 5th grade students...The Giving Tree (1964), by Shel Silverstein.

"Once there was a tree...and she loved a little boy. Every day the boy would come and he would gather her leaves and make them into crowns and play king of the forest. He would climb up her trunk and swing from her branches and eat apples...And the boy loved the tree very much...And the tree was happy." Unfortunately, as the boy grew older, he began to want more and more from the tree, and the tree gave, and gave, and gave - her apples, her branches, her trunk. "And one day after a long time (when the boy was an old man but still just a boy to the tree), the boy came back again. "I am sorry, Boy," said the tree, 'but I have nothing left to give you...I am just an old stump.' 'I don't need very much now,' said the boy, 'just a quiet place to sit and rest. I am very tired.' 'Well,' said the tree straightening

herself up as much as she could, 'an old stump is good for sitting and resting. Come, Boy, sit down. Sit down and rest.' And the boy did. And the tree was happy."

I will never forget the moment one of my students looked at me with tears in his eyes, and said, "That tree gave too much." "Do you know anybody like that?" I asked. "Yes," he said, "Jesus." (Remembering this moment still makes me happy). "Anyone else?" I



asked the class. One answered, "My mother," while another little boy (who was being reared by his grandparents) said, "My grandmother."

It saddens me to know that in many schools today, teachers are not allowed to talk about the origin of Christmas, and some are

even taking the word Christmas off the school calendar. My hope is that each of us will respond like my students reacting to the selfless giving tree and demonstrate through our actions what Christmas is all about. As I had told my students, when they inquired why we gave gifts to each other on Jesus' birthday, "Jesus said when we do nice things for others, it's like doing nice things for him" (Matthew 25:40).

Mother Theresa, who modeled a life of giving, reminded us, "It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you...every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand." Jesus reinforced this when he said, "Whatever you do for one of the least of these...you do for me" (Matthew 25:40). We are not put on this earth for ourselves but are placed here for each other. If you are always there for others, then in time of need, someone will be there for you. "When we help others, we help ourselves" as Tommy says.

It is not surprising to note that the same principle of servanthip applies in the workplace as well and it is a founding principle in which Lofton Staffing was founded: to serve our clients and each other, when we help others, we help ourselves, we are all called to serve. During this Christmas season and every day, let us commit to making those around us and Lofton Corporation a better place, and may each of you be blessed with a happy and productive New Year!

Year-End W-2s It's important to review your paystubs this month to make sure the following are correct:

Your name as it appears on your social security card/Your address / Your social security number. If you worked for more than one Lofton division, i.e. Security, Staffing, Energy or Medical, you will receive a W-2 for EACH corporation. If you need to make any changes (address, etc.), log into your account through the employee login on the Lofton website, or contact your local Lofton office immediately. Changes must be made prior to the end of the year. W-2(s) will be available on the Lofton employee portal no later than the last day in January.

HSA

By: Mary Dixon, Benefits Coordinator

During the month of December, employees enrolled in one of the qualified high deductible plans (Plan A or C) are able to change their deductions for the 2025 plan year effective January 1, 2025.

Contribution limits are as follows:

- Maximum individual contribution \$4,300
- Maximum family contribution \$8,550
- Catch up contribution \$1,000 (addl. for age 55 or older)

If you are interested in changing your contributions or would like to open a health savings account, please contact the Benefits Department at Benefits@lofton.jobs.

REMINDER

The deadline to earn the premium incentive through the wellness program is December 31, 2024.

www.powerofvitality.com



The Giving Season By: Julie East, Corporate Marketing

Mrs. Glenda is so right! There is something special about Christmas. It's a time of giving, receiving, and good cheer. Why does it seem that this giving spirit only happens once a year? Wouldn't it be nice to operate with a generous heart in all that we do? What does Santa do that we could live by...all year long?

Santa Wants Us to be Our Best. Have you been good all year? He reminds us that making the effort to share kindness, compassion and generosity everyday always leads to a happier life.

Santa Makes His Gifts. How many of us have over-spent on Christmas? Santa knows the most important thing about a gift is the love and feeling behind it, not the price tag.

Santa Has a Positive Support System. Santa is surrounded by a collaborating team that takes an insurmountable task and turns it into an accomplishment. They are goal focused and are #bettertogether.

Santa Teaches Us to Believe. Although you can't see Santa, you can feel his Christmas spirit throughout the season. He teaches us to believe in something you can't see or touch. To believe in something greater than ourselves.

Santa Loves His Work. Santa is the perfect example of finding joy in your work. He spends all year preparing for one night, without pay. But Santa does it with a smile on his face, a twinkle in his eye and a jolly "Ho, Ho, Ho." The only way to do great work is to LOVE what you do.

Santa Gives. Santa knows it's better to give than to receive. No matter how much or how little, you have the power to touch the life of another person. As Tommy Lofton says (and Glenda also pointed out), "When we help others, we in turn, help ourselves."

If we kept Santa's spirit all year long, what a world we would live in!

