

TOOLBOX TALK #50

BRING ON SUMMER SAFELY

Safety is not just something to pay attention to on the job. It also carries over to your personal life.

After a spring spent sheltering safely indoors, summer never looked so good! Wisconsin's great outdoors provide endless outlets for recreation in settings that still allow for responsible social distancing. However, don't let your guard down; there are still potential safety hazards you need to be aware of.

- Pay attention to weather reports before you plan any outdoor activities. If storms are in the forecast, save your outing for a safer time. If you're already outside and you hear thunder, take shelter if you can. If you're boating or kayaking, get off the open water at the first sign of thunder. If you're swimming, get out of the water immediately. And if you're hiking, do not seek shelter under a tree.
- Do not swim around docks with electrical equipment or boats plugged into shore power. If you are in the water and feel a tingle of electric current, shout to let others know, try to stay upright, tuck your legs up to make yourself smaller, and swim away from anything that could be energized. Do not head to boat or dock ladders to get out.
- Be aware of where powerlines are when you're boating or fishing. Make sure you don't raise a mast or antenna when a powerline is nearby, and make sure you cast your line away from any powerlines to avoid contact.
- Carefully inspect the electrical system of your camper before using it. When you get to a campground, plug your camper into the power pedestal with a heavy-duty, four-wire cord with a grounding wire, and not an extension cord. If you're powering up your camper with a generator, be sure you use it only in open areas to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

