



Date: February 1, 2021

Activity: Steam Burns (Almost)

What Happened:

An experienced Galleyhand was asked to pull some cookies from the oven just before a 9:00 AM break. Looking around for a pair of oven mitts, he didn't notice them on top of the range shelf and so he grabbed a couple of galley towels.

However, one of the towels was somewhat damp. Not wet, mind you but just damp. Using the towels, he opened the oven door, removed a sheet pan of cookies and was able to turn around and



set the pan on the prep table immediately. That's when he realized that the wet towel was starting to feel hot. Not hot enough to burn, but hot enough to be uncomfortable.

Had this been a heavier pan (like a roaster), the towel would have been compressed enough and the heat would have been enough to possibly cause a Steam Burn.

Remember, when a wet towel (or oven mitt for that matter) meets a hot surface, the water in it will rapidly turn into steam (water is an exceptionally good heat conductor). If you are holding that towel, you will almost certainly be burned.

Why it Happened:

- The Galleyhand was in a hurry
- The oven mitts were not kept in a designated location
- Distracted employee didn't stop to consider a possible hazard

Typical Hazards:

- Steam Burns

Corrective Actions:

- The Steward and the team got together and agreed on a specific place to put the oven mitts near the range so that they would always be readily available. They all agreed that they would not use galley towels, or something similar, to remove hot items from an oven or stovetop.