

Safety Meetings are important!

They: get your employees actively involved
encourage safety awareness
help identify problems before they become accidents
motivate employees to follow proper safety procedures

We are happy to provide you with a monthly topic for your agenda.

ROUTE TO:

- General Manager
- Safety Coordinator
- Supervisor Dept. _____
- Other _____
- Date of Meeting _____

June 2023**Heat Illness Prevention**

Last year OSHA created a national emphasis program for heat illness prevention. The driver behind this program is that every year people become ill or die when working in hot or humid environments. OSHA's general duty clause states that an employer has the obligation to protect employees from potential hazards in the workplace - Heat is one of those hazards.

National emphasis programs mean that OSHA is sending inspectors out specifically to look for job locations where heat related hazards may exist. It also means that any inspection OSHA conducts may include a heat illness prevention inspection.

OSHA recommends, but does not require, employers to develop A heat illness prevention program if their workers may be exposed to high temperatures. This program includes sections for:

[Planning and supervision](#) -assigning responsibility for daily supervision, new employees, temporary and contract workers.

[Protecting new workers](#) - new employees are especially vulnerable to succumbing to heat illness. Challenges to the new employee range from a new environment to wanting to please their boss and co-workers.

[Heat Hazard recognition](#) - the employer should be able to recognize the challenges for the worksite, weather conditions and physical demands of a job.



[Engineering controls, Work practices and PPE](#) - the employer should have mitigated the heat using engineering controls (like AC, fans and using mechanical equipment rather than physical labor. Work schedules may be modified or more breaks scheduled. And PPE such as cooling neck wraps, cooling vests and hats should be provided.

[Heat stress calculator](#) - This calculator aggregates hazard factors like temperature + workload + acclimatized status (new worker or job transfer has a higher risk factor) + Clothing requirements + Body weight to determine whether an employee's heat stress level is above NIOSH/OSHA's recommended limits.

[Provide water, rest and shade](#) - Employers should provide water to keep employees hydrated and electrolyte fluids for employees working 2+ hours, in any hot environment. Employer should require employees to take breaks, dependent on the environment.

Employers should provide training on Heat related illnesses and their signs.

Your company may not want or need to create a Heat Illness Prevention Plan but you can and should train your employees on heat related illnesses, signs/symptoms and first aid. Here is a link to [OSHA's Heat Illness Prevention](#) page that contains ways to train your employees on how to recognize their own dehydration through urine color, a 1 minute YouTube training video and three downloadable posters.

If you have any questions on these subjects or other questions related to DHS, EPA or OSHA, please contact me.

Marilyn Dempsey

GAWDA Consultant: DHS, EPA, OSHA

Safety Dragons Workplace Consultants, LLC

marilyn@safetydragons.com

940-999-8466

www.SafetyDragons.com

