



Safety Advisory

Cal/OSHA Heat Advisory

The State of California Department of Industrial Relations - Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DIR-DOSH or "Cal/OSHA") recently issued its first high-heat advisory of 2014. The objective of this advisory is to make employers aware of their responsibilities under the heat illness prevention rule [Reference: Title 8, California Code of Regulations, and Section 3395].

<http://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/3395.html>



Heat Illness Prevention Rule Scope and Application

The standard applies to all outdoor places of employment involving agricultural activities, construction, landscaping, oil and gas extraction, and certain transportation activities except where work is confined to operating an air-conditioned vehicle and does not include loading or unloading. Onsite powered industrial truck operations (e.g., tractors, aerial lifts, forklifts, utility carts, etc.) and routine outdoor maintenance activities should be considered as applicable under the rule.

Employee Communication and Information

Effective training in the following topics is required to all supervisors and their crews before beginning work that may result in exposure to the risk of heat illness:

- Environmental and personal risk factors;
- Written procedures for complying with the heat illness prevention plan;
- Provision of water and importance of drinking water frequently;
- The importance of acclimatization;
- Types and signs and symptoms of heat illness;
- Importance to employees of immediately reporting signs and symptoms of heat illness in themselves or in co-workers; and
- Procedures for responding to symptoms of heat illness and activating emergency medical services (EMS) when indicated, including procedures for contacting and transporting employees to a point where EMS providers may reach affected employees.

Procedures shall specify a designated person to invoke emergency procedures and ensure responders are provided with clear and precise directions to the work site.

HEAT ILLNESS PREVENTION (Continued)

Supervisor Training

Additional effective training on the following topics is required for all supervisors prior to supervising employees performing work involving exposure to the risk of heat illness:

- The procedures the supervisor will follow in order to implement the heat illness prevention plan;
- The procedures the supervisor will follow when employees exhibit symptoms of heat illness, including emergency response; and
- Supervisors shall be effectively trained on how to monitor weather reports and respond appropriately to hot weather advisories.

Providing Potable Water

Employees must have access to potable drinking water.

- Where drinking water is not plumbed or continuously supplied, it shall be provided in sufficient quantity at the beginning of the work shift in order to provide one quart per employee per hour for drinking for the entire shift;
- Procedures may be established to provide smaller quantities of water if sufficiently replenished throughout the shift; and
- The practice of drinking water frequently shall be encouraged.

Providing Access to Shade (85°F)

Access to shade must be provided whenever outdoor temperature is likely to exceed 85°F.

- Shaded areas must be large enough to accommodate 25% of the work crew at any time;
- Designated shaded areas must be located as close as practicable to the areas where employees are working; and
- Employees shall be allowed and encouraged to take a cool-down rest in the shade for a period of no less than five minutes, as needed to protect themselves from overheating.

Business Plan for Implementing High-Heat Procedures (95°F)

Employers must implement high-heat procedures when the temperature equals or exceeds 95°F.

- Effective communications by voice, observation, or electronic means must be maintained so that employees at the work site can contact a supervisor when necessary;
- Employees shall be observed for alertness and signs or symptoms of heat illness;
- Employees shall be reminded throughout the work shift to drink plenty of water; and
- New employees shall be closely supervised or monitored for assurance that they are acclimatized to high-heat environments.

Risk Management has developed a business plan that may be used at all college locations and satellite facilities that substantially complies with the heat illness prevention standard. For more information on the District's heat illness prevention program, please contact David Martin, District EH&S Specialist, at (213) 891-2422 or Kathy Yamaguchi, LATTC EH&S Specialist at (213) 763-3632.



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