

Workplace Strategies for Hot Weather Safety

Basic hot weather safety strategies need to be in place to protect workers as the temperature rises. It is important to make sure that safety strategies and protocols are in place at work sites and workers know how to protect themselves.

Hot Weather Safety Strategies Include:

1. Being trained on *how to recognize a heat-related medical emergency* (heat stroke).
2. Having a clearly *written protocol on how to respond to a medical emergency*. The protocol for all shifts should include information about who is authorized to call an ambulance, how to call for an ambulance, and what to do while waiting for emergency medical care. This protocol should be translated into the commonly spoken languages in the facility and posted throughout the workplace.
3. Ensuring that *workers have access to drinking water as needed and the right to access bathrooms as needed*. This is important because some workers hold back on drinking water so that they can put off using the restroom. *This is never a good idea and can have serious consequences during hot weather*.
4. *Monitoring particularly hot and humid work areas*. This should be done with a device that measures both heat and humidity and combines these measurements to provide the heat index. The company should have a plan for additional rest breaks or means of cooling the work area whenever the heat index approaches the “extreme caution” zone

Work with your local to make sure that workers are protected in hot conditions. Meet with the company to ensure that all of the proper hot weather safety strategies are being used in your work site.