

Workplace Strategies for Hot Weather Safety

Every worksite needs to have basic hot weather safety strategies in place to protect workers.

Hot Weather Safety Strategies Include:

1. Training all management and hourly employees with an emphasis on *how to recognize a medical emergency* (heat stroke).
2. Having a clearly *written protocol on how to respond to a medical emergency*. This should include information for all shifts 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. Training all management and hourly employees on *workers' right to access drinking water as needed and the right to access to 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 union rep and your local to make sure that you and your coworkers 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 worksite.