SE TX Heat Hazard Alert* (June 2023)

We've had a heat related fatality and two hospitalizations so far this summer. Let's redouble our efforts to make sure our workers have water, rest, and shade by implementing an effective heat illness prevention program. It's important that we watch out for each other, emphasize hydration, monitor for heat illness signs and symptoms, and effectively implement the elements of a heat illness prevention program.



June 2023 - An iron worker was conducting a crane assembly assessment. They came down from the tower, sat and drank water. They went to the restroom but never came out. They asked for help while in the porta-potty and were brought out by co-workers who then attempted to render aid as well as to contact the site medical personnel. Medical support was provided, and paramedics took them to a medical center, and they were later transferred to a hospital. They later passed away. Suspected heat illness.



** As of June 21, 2023. +1 shows the month of the heat illness related fatalities this summer of 2023

We've also had two heat related hospitalizations reported so far this month:

June 2023 - Driver was driving their assigned route when he contacted dispatch and reported they were feeling ill and sweating profusely. An ambulance was contacted, and they were hospitalized.

June 2023 - Employee was just finishing up with their work duties as a solar installer installing solar panel systems on a single-story residential home. He felt dehydrated and exhausted from the heat and was hospitalized.

Employer Checklist for Outdoor and Indoor Heat-Related Injury and Illness Prevention

https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/Activity FF EmployerHeatChecklist.pdf

Keep in mind the 8 Basic Elements of a Heat Illness Prevention Program

A Person Designated to Oversee the Heat Illness Prevention Program
Hazard Identification
Water. Rest. Shade Message
Acclimatization
Modified Work Schedules
Training
Monitoring for Signs and Symptoms

Emergency Planning and Response



* Incident information is based on the first report of injury and may not reflect the final information or cause of the incident. This information has been developed by an OSHA Compliance Assistance Specialist and is intended to assist employers, workers, and others improve workplace health and safety. While we attempt to thoroughly address specific topics [or hazards], it is not possible to include discussion of everything necessary to ensure a healthy and safe working environment in this presentation. This information is a tool for addressing workplace hazards, and is not an exhaustive statement of an employer's legal obligations, which are defined by statute, regulations, and standards. This document does not have the force and effect of law and is not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies. It does not create (or diminish) legal obligations under the Occupational Safety and Health Act. Finally, OSHA may modify rules and related interpretations in light of new technology, information, or circumstances; to keep apprised of such developments, or to review information on a wide range of occupational safety and health topics, you can visit OSHA's website at www.osha.gov. Incidents are based on the first report of injury and may not reflect the final determination if applicable. For questions contact Jim Shelton at the Houston North Area Office shelton.james@dol.gov.