

Planning and Supervision to Prevent Heat Illness

Having a written heat illness prevention plan can help keep employees safe. Important elements to consider when creating the heat plan are:

1. Who will provide oversight on a daily basis?
2. How will new workers gradually develop heat tolerance?
3. Temporary workers may be more susceptible to heat and require closer supervision.
4. Workers returning from extended leave (typically defined as more than two weeks) may also be at increased risk.
5. How will the employer ensure that first aid is adequate and the protocol for summoning medical assistance in situations beyond first-aid is effective?
6. What engineering controls and work practices will be used to reduce heat stress?
7. How will heat stress be measured?
8. How to respond when the National Weather Service issues a heat advisory or heat warning?
9. How will we determine if the total heat stress is hazardous?
10. What training will be provided to workers and supervisors?

Day-to-Day Supervision

Heat conditions can change rapidly and your commitment to adjusting heat stress controls can help prevent heat illness. An individual at the worksite should be responsible for monitoring conditions and implementing the employer's heat plan *throughout the workday*.

Ideally, the individual who is responsible for the heat plan should be on-site, where the workers are. On-site monitoring allows accurate determination of heat stress. If on-site monitoring is not possible, the responsible individual at the site should be trained on the methods to contact and report to the employer any adverse heat related conditions that may develop on the site as well as any signs and symptoms of heat related illness experienced by any of the workers. The responsible individual in a central location should estimate heat stress using the best available methods for remote estimation, like OSHA's Wet Bulb Globe Temperature Calculator.

Source: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Heat: planning and supervision. <https://www.osha.gov/heat-exposure/planning>.

