

# U.S. Department of Labor

Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
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April 19, 2011

Dear Madam/ Sir:

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 400 Americans die each year from exposure to excessive temperatures. The National Weather Service identified excessive heat, as the number one weather-related factor causing more fatalities per year than floods, lightning, tornados, hurricanes, winter storms and extreme cold from 1994 to 2003.

Statistics indicate that 5-10 million workers, engaged in outdoor work activity, experience heat-related illnesses (heat stroke, heat exhaustion, and heat cramps) annually. Occupational heat-related illnesses are preventable.

**OSHA's Regional Emphasis Program (REP) on heat-related illnesses** continues to be in affect this year.

Employees are encouraged to take appropriate precautions to reduce the risk to employees, working outdoors during extreme temperatures, from developing heat-related illnesses, through the developed and implemented of a **Heat-Alert Program**.

**Such programs include:** (1) training employees on the hazards of hot environmental temperature and protective measures, (2) making appropriate first aid available, (3) having drinking water available, and (4) having made provisions for prompt medical attention, in case a heat-related illness occurs. Other measures to reduce the risk of heat-related illnesses include: (1) engineering controls (portable air cooling blow fans, use of power assists and tools that reduce the physical demands placed on a worker) and/or (2) administrative controls / work practices (acclimatization program; work /rest schedule; scheduling of work; reduce the physical demands of work e.g. excessive lifting or digging; schedule hot work during cooler pars of the day; use of relief workers; use of worker pacing; fluid replacement; provide recovery areas; and worker monitoring programs – by checking heart rate, recovery heart rate, oral temperature, or extent of body water loss).

The following resources are available to assist you in achieving compliance and providing a workplace free of serious hazards:

1 .Oklahoma Department of Labor, OSHA Consultation Services, Diana Jones, Director 405-521-6100.

Employers can request, at no cost, a consultation visit. Onsite consultation visits can provide assistance in the identification and correction of hazardous conditions, in the development of required programs, and in educating employers and employees in hazard recognition and prevention, and regulatory requirements.

2. Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education / division of Business and Industry, Justin Smedley, Associate State Director, 405-743-5547, [www.okcarertech.org](http://www.okcarertech.org).

Provides business and industry a variety of courses and services related to safety and health training and education. Subject-specific training can be arranged, as well as site visits, and assistance in developing written programs. There are 29 area technology centers and 56 campuses strategically located throughout the 77 counties.

3. OSHA Website , [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)

The website provides access to a variety of information. Useful sites among others include:

- OSHA technical links page to safety and health topics
- Compliance Assistance Resources links page to:
  - o Sample programs
  - o OSHA standards and regulations
  - o Publications and guidance documents
  - o Industry profiles – hazard identification / control measures
  - o Training materials
  - o Frequently cited violations by industry (SIC code)

Should you have any questions, please contact Heather Hartman at 405-278-9560.

Sincerely,

David Bates  
Area Director