Summer safety moment and toolbox talk

29 CFR 1926.51, 1926.21, 1926.451, 1926.106, 1910.141, 1910.151

Date _____ Trainer _____ Location _____

Opening question

What changes about our work once the summer heat shows up?

Why it matters

Summer brings long days, high heat, strong sun, storms, bugs and new seasonal workers who do not know the site yet. Heat illness can come on fast, and a tired, overheated worker is more likely to make mistakes. There is no final federal OSHA heat standard, but water must be provided and the general duty to train still applies. Some states have their own heat rules, so check yours.

Key points

1. **Water close to the work**
   An adequate supply of potable water must be provided at every place of employment. Keep it close to the work, not back at the trailer, and drink small amounts often, even before you feel thirsty. Rest in the shade when you can, and watch each other for headache, dizziness, cramps or confusion.
   29 CFR 1926.51(a)(1)

2. **Ease new people into the heat**
   Workers who are new, or back from time off, have not built up to the heat yet. Give them lighter work and more breaks the first few days, and pair them with someone experienced. Walk summer hires through the site and its hazards before they start. In construction, the employer must instruct each employee in recognizing and avoiding unsafe conditions.
   29 CFR 1926.21(b)(2)

3. **Cover up against the sun**
   Wear a hat or a hard hat sun shade, light long sleeves made for hot weather, and sunglasses or tinted safety glasses where your site allows them. Use sunscreen and put more on during the day. Take breaks out of direct sun when you can.

4. **Know the bugs, snakes and plants on site**
   On construction sites where harmful plants or animals are present, workers who may be exposed must be told the hazards, how to avoid injury and the first aid to use. Learn what poison ivy, ticks, stinging insects and snakes look like in this area. Use repellent, check for ticks after work, and tell your foreman if you are allergic to stings.
   29 CFR 1926.21(b)(4)

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5 Stop work for storms

Summer storms build fast. When you hear thunder, stop outdoor work and get inside a building or a hard-topped vehicle. Work on scaffolds is not allowed during storms or high winds unless a competent person decides it is safe and workers are protected by personal fall arrest or wind screens. Wait until the storm has clearly passed before going back out.

29 CFR 1926.451(f)(12)

6 Life jackets near water

In construction, workers over or near water, where there is a danger of drowning, must be given U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets or buoyant work vests. Check the vest before and after each use, and do not use one that is damaged. Off the job, wear a life jacket on boats too.

29 CFR 1926.106(a)

Scenario

Picture this: It is the first hot week of July. A new summer hire is on day two, hauling material across an open lot. The water cooler is back at the trailer, and nobody has shown the new worker where it is. By early afternoon the worker feels dizzy and confused but keeps going so as not to look weak. What should the crew have done earlier, and what do you do right now?

Crew discussion

1. Where are the water and shade on this job, and how far are they from the work?
2. Who on our crew is new or just back from time off?
3. What bugs, snakes or plants have we seen on this site?
4. What is our plan when a storm rolls in?

Bottom line **Drink water, ease new people into the heat, cover up, know what bites and stings on your site, and stop work when a storm rolls in.**

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Sign-in sheet / Hoja de asistencia

Topic / Tema Summer safety / Seguridad en verano

Date / Fecha _____

Trainer / Instructor _____

Location / Lugar _____

Company / Empresa _____

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Time / Hora _____

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