



# OSHA Heat Illness and Injury Inspection Procedures



## Programmed Inspections

Under the program, OSHA will conduct, in certain outdoor and indoor workplaces, programmed inspections on any day for which the National Weather Service has announced a heat warning or advisory in the local area. Those workplaces will be industries named in Appendix A to the program; examples include construction sites, petroleum production facilities, chemical factories, glass factories, iron and steel mills, bakeries, cattle ranches, some farms, and skilled nursing facilities.

## Non-Programmed Inspections

- The program will require OSHA inspectors conducting an investigation or inspection not related to heat hazards to open a heat-related inspection if a hazardous heat condition is recorded in an OSHA 300 log or 301 incident report, or if an employee brings a heat-related hazard to the inspector's attention.
- The program also will require inspectors to ask during non-heat inspections whether the employer has a heat-related hazard prevention program that applies when the heat index for the day is expected to be 80°F or more.

The program requires each OSHA regional office to double its number of heat-related inspections.

## What OSHA Will Be Doing During a Heat-Related Inspection

- During heat-related inspections, the program requires OSHA inspectors to:
- Review OSHA 300 logs and 301 incident reports for evidence of heat-related illnesses;

- Review records of heat-related emergency room visits or ambulance transport;
- Interview workers for symptoms of headache, dizziness, fainting, dehydration, or other indications of heat-related illnesses;
- Document the existence of conditions, such as high temperature, that cause the heat-related hazards;
- Determine whether the employer has a heat illness and injury program, including whether:
  - The employer has a written program;
  - The employer monitors temperature and worker exertion;
  - There is unlimited cool water easily accessible to workers;
  - There are required hydration breaks for hydration;
  - There are scheduled rest breaks;
  - Workers have access to a shaded area;
  - New and returning workers are provided time for acclimatization;
  - A "buddy" system is in place on hot days;
  - Work is scheduled to avoid hot parts of the day;
  - Job rotation is used to limit heat exposures; and
  - **Employees are trained in the importance of hydration, heat illness signs, first aid and summoning of emergency personnel.**

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