

SE TX Summer Safety Reminders (May 2022)

Summer presents many hazards that should be considered and planned for. Whether it's the potential hurricanes and floods, heat, new and youth employees, mosquitos, poison ivy, snakes, and lighting, there are many hazards you may need to address as summer arrives. That isn't even considering the off the job hazards of summer such as traveling, food safety, swimming, yard work, and other recreational activities. On the job incidents tend to increase in the summer and ensuring you and your workers are prepared can ensure everyone is safe at the end of the day.



Hurricane Season

Hurricane season starts June 1st. It's important to prepare for any potential severe weather such as hurricanes, floods, wildfires, and any other severe weather or emergency event we could experience. A few resources:

OSHA Hurricane Safety	IBHS Business Planning	NIEHS Disaster Presentations
		
https://www.osha.gov/hurricane	https://disastersafety.org/	https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=556



Heat

Heat presents a serious risk of heat related illnesses. It's important to have a plan on how heat hazards will be managed, train your workers on signs and symptoms of heat related illnesses, and ensure they have water, rest, and shade. Several heat illness prevention resources have been distributed in previous flyers.

OSHA Heat Safety	OSHA Basic Heat Program Areas	NIOSH Heat Stress Safety
		
https://www.osha.gov/heat/	https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/heat_stress.pdf	https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress/

Poisonous Plants

Any person working outdoors is at risk of exposure to poisonous plants, such as poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac. When in contact with skin, the sap oil (urushiol) of these plants can cause an allergic reaction. Burning these poisonous plants produces smoke that, when inhaled, can cause lung irritation

NIOSH Outdoor Hazards	NIOSH Poisonous Plants (E)	NIOSH Poisonous Plants (Sp)
		
https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/outdoor/	https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2010-118/pdfs/2010-118.pdf	https://www.cdc.gov/spanish/niosh/docs/2010-118_sp/

Lightning

Since 2009 we've had five workers die from getting struck by lightning in SE TX. It's important for worker to understand what to do when there is potential for lightning in the area. Construction sites can be at a particular risk due to tall exposed structures and equipment such as cranes.

OSHA Lightning Fact Sheet (E)	OSHA Lightning Fact Sheet (Sp)	CDC Lightning Tips
		
https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/OSHA3863.pdf	https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/OSHA4046.pdf	https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/lightning/safetytips.html?msclkid=ccb17dc3d14b11ec8f21a02f1e9576e6

Stinging Insects

Fatalities and hospitalization cases have occurred in SE TX over the years due to bee and insect stings. A worker with an allergic reaction can be in a serious situation and could need medical help. Mosquitos may carry the West Nile or Zika virus among other pathogens. Monitor local media for potential outbreaks.

NIOSH Stinging Insects	NIOSH Ticks and Mosquitos	OSHA West Nile (E)
		
https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2010-117/pdfs/2010-117.pdf	https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2010-119/pdfs/2010-119.pdf	https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/west_nile_quick_card.pdf
NIOSH Stinging Insects*	NIOSH Ticks and Mosquitos*	OSHA West Nile (Sp)
		
https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2010-117/	https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2010-119/	https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/sp_west_nile_qc.pdf

* The NIOSH Webpage can be turned into Spanish for the text version of the Fast Facts cards above

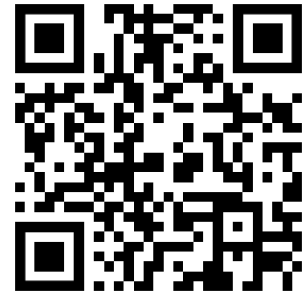
Snakes

Each year, an estimated 7,000–8,000 people are bitten by venomous snakes in the United States, and about 5 of those people die. Workers are far more likely to suffer long-term injuries from snake bites than to die from them. Employers should train their workers about their risk of exposure to venomous snakes, how workers can prevent and protect themselves from snake bites, and what they should do if they are bitten.

OSHA Rodent Snake Insect QC (E/Sp)	TX Parks and Wildlife Snakes	CDC Snakes
		
https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/rodents_snakes_insects.pdf	https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/resources/texas-junior-naturalists/be-nature-safe/venomous-snake-safety	https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/snakes/default.html?msclkid=ee962171d14911ec9302d04d19dbdbad

Summer/Youth Employees

- Young workers are those new to the workforce, even up to age 24. Young workers can be an asset to your workforce. However, it may be their first job or the first time they are operating equipment.
- Understand and comply with the relevant federal and state child labor laws which may prohibit youth from working certain hours and from performing dangerous/hazardous work.
- Ensure that young workers receive training to recognize hazards and are competent in safe work practices. Training should be in a language and vocabulary that workers can understand.
- Remember that young workers are not just "little adults." You must be mindful of the unique aspects of communicating with young workers.
- Tell young workers what to do if they get hurt on the job.
- Implement a mentoring or buddy system for new young workers. Have an adult or experienced young worker answer any questions and help the new young worker learn the ropes of a new job.
- Encourage young workers to ask questions about tasks or procedures that are unclear or not understood. Tell them whom to ask.
- Ensure that equipment operated by young workers is both legal and safe for them to use. Employers should label equipment that young workers are not allowed to operate.
- Many young workers are also temporary workers. Host employers must treat temporary workers as they treat existing workers, especially including adequate training to young temporary workers.



<https://www.osha.gov/young-workers>

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.

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