

EMERGENCY ALERT WORKERS EXPOSED TO HEAT!



Temperatures are at an all time high! Be aware that heat is a silent killer and the number one weather-related cause of death in the U.S. impacting both indoor and outdoor workers.

YOUR RIGHTS

Every employer is required to provide safe and healthful working conditions for their employees under OSHA's General Duty Clause, including protections from extreme heat. Your employer is subject to citation if they fail to protect workers from recognized hazards, which include working conditions that lead to heat illness.

Beware of these symptoms of heat illness:

Headache Weakness Hot, dry skin or profuse sweating

Nausea Thirst Confusion, altered mental state

Dizziness Fatigue Sweaty palms

To prevent exposure to heat, your employer can and should provide:

- Access to cool, potable water near the work area and encourage workers to drink often
- Rest and shade for all workers
- Rescheduling of work to shift work to cooler parts of the day
- Access to air conditioned rest areas for cool down
- Buddy systems to make sure workers are not alone
- Lessening production loads to account for slower pace of work
- Acclimatization programs to allow workers to adjust to hot environments over time.
- Modification to equipment and protective clothing to lessen the dangerous effects these can have on workers



WHAT TO DO IF YOUR RIGHTS ARE VIOLATED

You have the right to take action, with your co-workers, to protect yourselves from dangerous conditions — including extreme heat.

We are more powerful when we take action together.

If your employer is violating your right to a safe workplace you can file a complaint with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) online <u>HERE</u> or call (800) 321-6742.

For assistance with filing a complaint, or if the agency does not respond, contact info@nationalcosh.org

More resources and information:

- A worker center, union, or legal aid organization may be able to support you with filing a complaint.
- For more information on heat illness and ways to take action, please visit www.nationalcosh.org/heat-climate-justice