

HEAT STRESS & HEAT STRAIN

Concerns about work in hot environments are far too often casually dismissed. Unjustified complaints are not the norm! In fact, most cases of heat-related illnesses go unreported, some even pass dangerously unrecognized. Operators who perform physically demanding work near heat and/or humidity sources, such as open flames, furnaces, hot parts, washes or baths, are especially at risk.

Summer weather magnifies the risks. Physical work becomes frequently uncomfortable, but when is it unsafe? How do you know the difference? Are workers exposed to hazardous conditions? Does your company policy and program reflect the level of risk? Is it diligent or is it too loose that you compromise production? Signs to look for: bandannas, thirst, decreased productivity, more rest pauses, seasonal absenteeism, and reports of employee ill-health. How do you manage ...



THE RISKS...

HEALTH & SAFETY HAZARDS

- Faint, light-headedness, dehydration
- Employee acclimatization, fitness
- Susceptible and "high risk" workers
- Weariness, fatigue, and injuries
- Heat stroke fatalities

EFFECTS ON PRODUCTION

- Absences from work
- Work refusals
- Product quality
- Altered Work/Rest Schedules
- Reduced productivity

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

- Legislative compliance
- Manpower scheduling
- First Aid and WSIB reporting
- Abuse and enforcement
- Appropriate policy

NEED SOLUTIONS ???

OSHTECH is an integrated team of specialists providing consulting and training in ergonomics, occupational hygiene, and environmental risk assessments. Our professional services include:

WORKPLACE INVESTIGATIONS

- Hazard/Risk Assessment
- Plant Heat Sources Mapping
- Workload/Energy MR Estimates
- Environmental WBGT Monitoring
- Employee Exposure TWA Profiles

HAZARD CONTROL PROGRAMS

- Policy & Program Development
- Ergonomic Engineering Controls
- Environmental Controls
- Work/Rest Scheduling
- Design of Rotation Patterns

TRAINING

- Worker Awareness
- Supervisor Responsibilities
- JHSC Information Resources
- OH&S Coordinator Support
- Management Implications

OSH&E Consulting, Training & Laboratory Services

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