

SUNDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROCEDURES FOR HEAT ILLNESS PREVENTION



SUNDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The following designated person(s) (e.g., program administrator, safety coordinator, supervisor, foreman, field supervisor, crew leader) has (have) the authority and responsibility for implementing the provisions of this program at this worksite.

Name/Title/Phone Number

1. Terri Rufert--Superintendent
2. Cindy Gist--Principal
3. Chase Quinn--Director of Operations
4. Shawn Verkaik--Transportation
- 5.

Instructions: Choose the items below that are applicable to your work operations for water and shade provision, high heat procedures, acclimatization methods, and emergency procedures, and add additional language to specify how your company intends to implement these provisions at the job site.

Procedures for the Provision of Water:

- Water will be fresh, pure, and provided to employees free of charge. Nine water filling locations and 18 drinking fountains are available for use.

- All water containers will be kept in a sanitary condition. Water from non-approved or non-tested water sources (e.g., untested wells) is not acceptable. If hoses or connections are used, they must be approved for potable drinking water systems, as shown on the manufacturer's label. The water wells at Sundale are monitored monthly.

- When the temperature equals or exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit, or during a heat wave, pre-shift meetings will be conducted before the commencement of work to both encourage employees to drink plenty of water and to remind employees of their right to take a cool-down rest when necessary. Additionally, the number of water breaks will be increased. Supervisors/foremen will lead by example and remind employees throughout the work shift to drink water.

- Individual water containers used by each staff member is encouraged.

In addition to the procedures above, the employer will ensure the provision of water using the following procedures:

1. Staff is able to break for water as needed.
2. When possible, staff will complete tasks indoors when temperatures read 95 degrees or above.

Procedures for Monitoring the Weather:

The supervisor will be trained and instructed to check in advance the extended weather forecast. Weather forecasts can be checked with the aid of the internet (<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>), by calling the National Weather Service phone numbers (see CA numbers below), or by checking the Weather Channel TV Network. The work schedule will be planned in advance, taking into consideration whether high temperatures or a heat wave is expected. This type of advanced planning should take place whenever the temperature is expected to reach 70 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.

CALIFORNIA Dial-A-Forecast

- Hanford 559-584-8047

Prior to each workday, the forecasted temperature and humidity for the worksite will be reviewed and will be compared against the National Weather Service Heat Index to evaluate the risk level for heat illness. Determination will be made of whether or not employees will be exposed to a temperature and humidity characterized as either "extreme caution" or "extreme danger" for heat illnesses. It is important to note that the temperature at which these warnings occur must be lowered as much as 15 degrees if the employees are working in direct sunlight. Additional steps, such as those listed below, will be taken to address these hazards.

Prior to each workday, the supervisor will monitor the weather (using <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/> or a simple thermometer, available at most hardware stores) at the worksite. This critical weather information will be taken into consideration to determine when it will be necessary to make modifications to the work schedule (e.g., stopping work early, rescheduling the job, working at night or during the cooler hours of the day, increasing the number of water and rest breaks).

The local forecast will be used at Sundale School, 13990 Ave. 240, Tulare to monitor for a sudden increase in temperature and to ensure that once the temperature exceeds 80 degrees Fahrenheit, shade structures will be opened and made available to the employees. In addition, when the temperature equals or exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit, additional preventive measures, such as high-heat procedures, will be implemented.

Procedures for Handling a Heat Wave:

For purposes of this section only, "heat wave" means any day in which the predicted high temperature for the day will be at least 80 degrees Fahrenheit and at least ten degrees Fahrenheit higher than the average high daily temperature in the preceding five days.

During a heat wave or heat spike, the work day will be adjusted to indoor duties.

During a heat wave or heat spike and before starting work, tailgate meetings will be held to review the company Heat Illness Prevention Procedures (HIPP), the weather forecast, and emergency response procedures. Additionally, if schedule modifications are not possible, employees will be provided with an increased number of water and rest breaks and observed closely for signs and symptoms of heat illness.

High Heat Procedures:

High Heat Procedures are additional preventive measures that this company will use when the temperature equals or exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit.

- Effective communication by voice, direct observation (applicable for work crews of 20 or fewer), contact a supervisor when necessary and as needed.
- Frequent communication will be maintained with employees working by themselves or in smaller groups (via phone or two-way radio), to be on the lookout for possible symptoms of heat illness. The employee(s) will be contacted regularly and as frequently as possible throughout the day since an employee in distress may not be able to summon help on their own.
- Effective communication and direct observation for alertness and signs and symptoms of heat illness will be conducted frequently. When the supervisor is not available, a designated alternate responsible person must be assigned to look for signs and symptoms of heat illness. If a supervisor, designated observer, or any employee reports any signs or symptoms of heat illness in any employee, the supervisor or designated person will take immediate action commensurate with the severity of the illness (see Emergency Response Procedures).
- Employees will be reminded constantly throughout the work shift to drink plenty of water and take preventative cool-down rest breaks when needed.

In addition to the High Heat Procedures listed above, the following High Heat Procedures apply to agricultural work sites.

- When the temperature equals or exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit, employees will be provided one 10-minute "preventative cool-down rest period" every two hours. During the first eight hours of a shift, the cool-down periods may be provided at the same time as the rest periods already required by Industrial Welfare Commission Order No. 14.
- Once the temperature equals or exceeds 95 degrees Fahrenheit, records will be kept documenting the fact that mandatory cool-down rest periods are provided and taken.

Procedures for Acclimatization:

Acclimatization is the temporary adaptation of the body to work in the heat that occurs gradually when a person is exposed to it. In more common terms, the body needs time to adapt when temperatures rise suddenly, and an employee risks heat illness by not taking it easy when a heat wave or heat spike strikes, or when starting a new job that exposes the employee to heat to which the employee's body hasn't yet adjusted.

Inadequate acclimatization can be significantly more perilous in conditions of high heat and physical stress. Employers are responsible for the working conditions of their employees, and they must implement additional protective measures when conditions result in sudden exposure to heat their employees are not accustomed to.

The weather will be monitored daily. The supervisor will be on the lookout for heat waves, heat spikes, or temperatures to which employees haven't been exposed for several weeks or longer.

New employees and those who have been newly assigned to a high heat area will be closely observed by the supervisor or designee for the first 14 days. The intensity of the work will be lessened during a two-week break-in period by using procedures such as scheduling slower-paced, less physically demanding work during the hot parts of the day and the heaviest work activities during the cooler parts of the day (early morning or evening). Steps taken to lessen the intensity of the workload for new employees will be documented.

The supervisor or the designee will be extra vigilant with new employees and stay alert to the presence of heat-related symptoms.

During a heat wave, all employees will be observed closely (or maintain frequent communication via phone or radio) for possible symptoms of heat illness.

Procedures for Emergency Response:

Appropriately trained and equipped person is available at the site to render first aid.

Prior to the start of the shift, a determination will be made as to whether a language barrier is present at the site, and, if necessary, steps will be taken, such as assigning the responsibility to call emergency medical services to the foreman or an English speaking employee, to ensure that emergency medical services can be immediately called in the event of an emergency.

When an employee shows symptom(s) of possible heat illness, emergency medical services will be called, and steps will immediately be taken to keep the stricken employee cool and comfortable to prevent the progression to more serious illness. Under no circumstances will the affected employee be left unattended.

During a heat wave, heat spike, or hot temperatures, employees will be reminded and encouraged to immediately report to their supervisor any signs or symptoms they are experiencing.

Employees and supervisors will be trained on every detail of these written Procedures for Emergency Response.

Procedures for Handling a Sick Employee:

When an employee displays possible signs or symptoms of heat illness, a trained first aid employee or supervisor will evaluate the sick employee and determine whether resting in the shade and drinking cool water will suffice or if emergency service providers will need to be called. A sick employee will not be left alone in the shade, as they could take a turn for the worse!

When an employee displays possible signs or symptoms of heat illness and no trained first aid employee or supervisor is available at the site, emergency service providers will be called.

Emergency service providers will be called immediately if an employee displays signs or symptoms of severe heat illness (e.g., decreased level of consciousness, staggering, vomiting, disorientation, irrational behavior, incoherent speech, convulsions, red and hot face), does not look okay, or does not get better after drinking cool water and resting in the shade.

Procedures for Employee and Supervisor Training:

To be effective, training must be understood by employees. Therefore, it must be given in a language and vocabulary the employees understand. Training records will be maintained and will include the date of the training, who performed the training, who attended the training, and the subject(s) covered.

- Supervisors will be trained prior to being assigned to supervise other employees. Training will include this company's written procedures and the steps supervisors will follow when employees exhibit symptoms consistent with heat illness.
- Supervisors will be trained on their responsibility to provide water, shade, cool-down rests, and access to first aid, as well as the employees' right to exercise their rights under this standard without retaliation.
- Supervisors will be trained in appropriate first aid and/or emergency response to different types of heat illness and made aware that heat illness may progress quickly from mild signs and symptoms to a serious, life-threatening illness.
- Supervisors will be trained on how to track the weather at the job site (by monitoring predicted temperature highs and periodically using a thermometer). Supervisors will be instructed on how weather information will be used to modify work schedules, increase the number of water and rest breaks, or cease work early if necessary.
- All employees and supervisors will be trained prior to working outside. Training will include all aspects of implementing an effective Heat Illness Prevention Plan, including providing sufficient water, providing access to shade, high-heat procedures, emergency response procedures, and acclimatization procedures contained in the company's written plan. Employees and supervisors will also be trained on the environmental and personal risk factors of heat illness and the importance of immediately reporting signs and symptoms of heat illness.
- In addition to initial training, employees will be retrained annually.
- Employees will be trained on the steps for contacting emergency medical services, including how they are to proceed when there are non-English speaking employees, how clear and precise directions to the site will be provided, and the importance of making visual contact with emergency responders at the nearest road or landmark to direct them to their worksite.
- When the temperature is expected to exceed 80 degrees Fahrenheit, short "tailgate" meetings will be held to review the weather report, reinforce heat illness prevention with all employees, provide reminders to drink water frequently, inform them that shade will be available, and remind them to be on the lookout for signs and symptoms of heat illness.

Resources:

Heat Illness Prevention Enforcement Q&A	https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/heatillnessQA.html
Cal/OSHA Heat Illness Prevention etool	https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/etools/08-006/index.htm
Cal/OSHA Heat Illness Prevention Website	https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/heatillnessinfo.html
Cal/OSHA Consultation Program	https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/consultation.html Toll-free Number: 1-800-963-9424