

High Heat Procedures

The following High Heat Procedures are additional preventive measures that this department 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), mandatory buddy system, or electronic means will be maintained so that employees at the worksite can contact a supervisor when necessary. If the supervisor is unable to be near the employees (to observe them or communicate with them), then an electronic device, such as a cell phone or text messaging device, may be used for this purpose if reception in the area is reliable.
- Any employee who has been newly assigned to a high heat area shall be closely observed by a supervisor or designee for the first 14 days of the employee's assignment.
- 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 and implement (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.
- Pre-shift meetings will be held before the commencement of work to review the high heat procedures, encourage employees to drink plenty of water, and remind employees of their right to take a cool-down rest when necessary.