

CONSTRUCTION

6 Summer Workplace Hazards

Stefanie Valentic EHS Today | Jul 15, 2019

Hazards related to heat exposure aren't just because of the sun.

OSHA is reminding employers to address workplace hazards that lead to a higher instance of injuries and fatalities during summer months.

The agency provides [practical advice](#) on how an organization can integrate procedures into their safety and health programs.

"OSHA encourages employers to develop safety and health programs, hold safety stand-downs and toolbox talks, and conduct daily safety meetings to discuss common hazards," said OSHA Regional Administrator Kimberly Stille in Kansas City, Mo. "Employers are required to provide workplace safety training to improve employees' ability to identify, evaluate, and effectively prevent safety and health hazards on the job."

Risks in agricultural operations have been at their highest in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska in July, August, and September in the past three years, according to the agency.

The six hazards that peak during summer months.

1. Falls

Hazards related to heat exposure aren't just because of the sun.

2. Trenching and Excavation

This hazard is one of OSHA's priority goals. The agency states that in order to prevent cave-ins, employers should:

- SLOPE or bench trench walls
- SHORE trench walls with supports, or
- SHIELD trench walls with trench boxes

3. Struck-By Objects and Vehicles

Approximately 75% of struck-by fatalities involve heavy equipment such as trucks or cranes.

4. Electrical Safety

Electrical hazards encompass many occupations from engineers and electricians to office workers. Dangers include electric shock, fires and explosions.

5. Workplace Violence

Workplace violence includes any act or threat of physical violence, harassment, intimidation, or other threatening disruptive behavior that occurs at the work site. Acts of violence currently are the **third-leading cause of fatal occupational injuries** in the United States, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI).

6. Grain Bin and Agricultural Hazards

Farmworkers and workers in agricultural operations are most commonly exposed to hazards related to grain bins and silos, hazard communication of chemicals, noise, musculoskeletal injuries, and heat.