



# Weekly Safety Tip

## Staying Safe in Extreme Heat



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## Things you should know to help keep workers safe in high heat conditions

*Here are seven facts about heat exposure and how you can help protect workers.*



### 1 OSHA has no heat standard, but the *General Duty Clause* can apply.

The agency is developing a standard on heat-related injury and illness prevention in outdoor and indoor work settings. It could be published by the end of the 2024.

Until then, OSHA can cite employers for heat-related violations under the *General Duty Clause*.

But, to do so, the agency must prove:

- The employer failed to keep the workplace free of a hazard to which its employees were exposed.
- The hazard was recognized.
- The hazard was causing or was likely to cause death or serious physical harm.
- A feasible and useful method to correct the hazard was available.

### OSHA's most interesting cases

#### The General Duty Clause at work

A 24-year-old employee died in July 2022 while working on a project for a Louisiana-based archaeological and historic preservation company. It was her first day on the job.

As officials described it during a Technical Session at the 2023 NSC Safety Congress and Expo in New Orleans, the **heat index climbed as high as 107° F** during the six-hour survey project.

The company had **no acclimatization process for employees**.

Additionally, **supervisors and workers didn't have the knowledge and training to recognize the symptoms of a heat-related illness**.

The company's **heat safety plan** for the site only briefly mentioned rest "when needed" and **didn't include a work/rest schedule**.

**No provisions were made for a cool rest area.**

OSHA cited the company under the General Duty Clause (Section 5(a)(1)).

# **Weekly Safety Share**



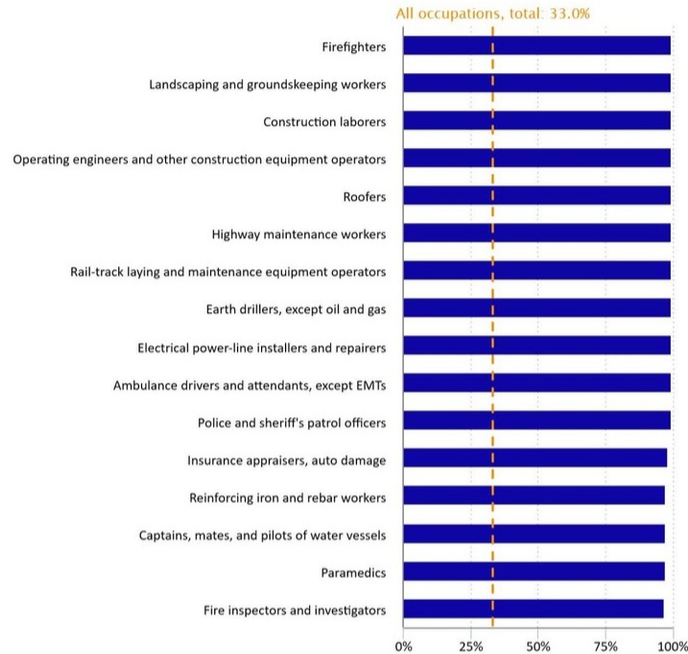
**It's Summer and It's Hot On-the-  
Job**

## It's Summer and It's Hot On-the-Job . . .

The summer solstice on June 20<sup>th</sup>, marking the beginning of astronomical summer, which also makes it the longest day of the year so there's more daylight, and sometimes more heat, for the 33.0 percent of workers exposed to the outdoors as a regular part of their job in 2023.

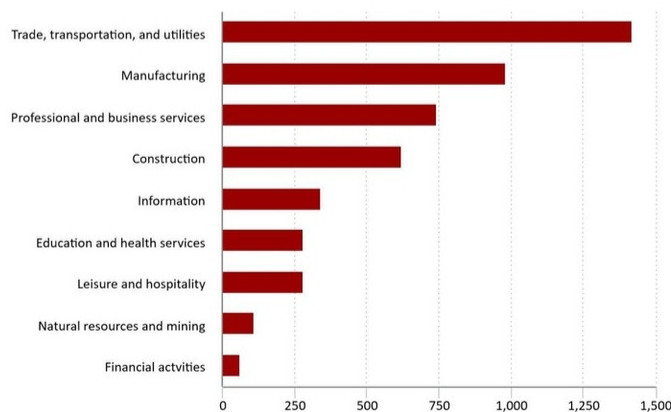
Occupations with a high level of outdoor exposure include those involved in construction, landscaping, and public safety. For example, at least 99.5 percent of firefighters, landscaping and groundskeeping workers, and construction laborers were exposed to the outdoors while on the job.

Percent of workers with outdoor exposure by occupation, 2023



On-the-job exposure to extreme temperatures can be dangerous. Over the 2021–22 period, the trade, transportation, and utilities industry had 1,420 workplace injuries that resulted in at least one day away from work due to exposure to extreme environmental heat. Manufacturing had 980 days away from work cases and professional and business services had 740.

Number of workplace injuries requiring at least one day away from work resulting from exposure to environmental heat, by private industry, 2021–22



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