



OUTDOOR SAFETY

Individuals who work outdoors are exposed to many types of hazards relative to their type of work, geographic region, the season, and the duration of time they are outside. There are physical hazards from extreme weather, cumulative heat stress and outdoor equipment; biological hazards, like poisonous plants, venomous reptiles and insects, and vector-borne diseases from mosquitoes and ticks. Environments vary wildly even within the state of Virginia – this meeting should help you plan accordingly!

FIRST WATCH: OUTDOOR WORKING HAZARDS-Video Series

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ApG-AsTwqwY&list=PLbda5Bg34YblQYI_RmPBmucd0ry3_bZxL&index=1

DISCUSS:

(check off each item as you discuss it)

- What are some of the ways to protect yourself from overexposure to the sun while working outside?
- If you use any outdoor chemicals, take the time to locate them and read aloud the manufacturer's warnings or SDS. Consider what pesticides and herbicides may have been used in and around your jobsite or shop – what are the dangers, and how can you prevent over-exposure?
- Since the warmest time of summer is coming, what are some of the early signs you may notice if your body is overheating? What should you do if you notice these signs in yourself or a coworker? In an emergency, how would you cool someone experiencing heat stroke or other heat illness?
- How can you protect yourself from mosquitoes and ticks? Where are these insects usually found?
- Discuss what types of severe weather typically affect your geographic region. Do you have emergency response procedures for these situations, and if so, is everyone aware of them?
- Summer chores can often come with the use of loud machinery. What type of "summer chores" do you perform and what equipment (leaf blowers, chainsaws, mowers) would you wear hearing protection while using?

CONSIDER:

An encounter with a hazardous plant, insect, or animal is usually more uncomfortable than dangerous. But you can't take chances. Some people have very severe reactions—on rare occasions, even fatal ones. So, your best bet is to avoid contact. If you can't, know what to do and do it quickly. For every jobsite, make sure you note the closest medical facility in case of emergency.

REMEMBER: Know your environment and be prepared!

SIGN-IN SHEET

Today's Date: _____

Safety Meeting Leader:

***While social distancing measures are in effect to combat the spread of COVID-19, please do not gather employees together in a way that violates CDC guidelines or applicable state orders! Rather than collecting signatures, consider having employees text or email the Safety Meeting Leader to confirm they are in attendance, and save those messages in your files.**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____

CONDUCTING A SAFETY MEETING

1. Gather employees together*
2. Have all employees sign-in!
3. Review the material
4. Have an employee sum up the lesson
5. Lead by example!

Be sure to keep the instruction sheet and the sign-in sheet in your permanent files!

It may be used as evidence of training in a future workers' compensation case or at an OSHA inspection.