



Training Solutions, Delivered!

**HEAT STRESS:**  
***Working Safely***  
***in the Heat***  
**(Concise)**

**Leader's Guide, Fact Sheet  
& Quiz**

***This easy-to-use Leader's Guide is provided to assist in conducting a successful presentation.***

## **PREPARING FOR THE MEETING**

Here are a few suggestions for using this program:

- a) Review the contents of the Fact Sheet that immediately follows this page to familiarize yourself with the program topic and the training points discussed in the program. The Fact Sheet also includes a list of Program Objectives that details the information that participants should learn from watching the program.
- b) If required by your organization, make an attendance record to be signed by each participant to document the training to be conducted.
- c) Prepare the area and equipment to be used for the training. Make sure the watching environment is comfortable and free from outside distractions. Also, ensure that participants can see and hear the TV screen or computer monitor without obstructions.
- d) Make copies of the Review Quiz included at the end of this Leader's Guide to be completed by participants at the conclusion of the presentation. Be aware that the page containing the answers to the quiz comes before the quiz itself, which is on the final page.

## **CONDUCTING THE PRESENTATION**

- a) Begin the meeting by welcoming the participants. Introduce yourself and give each person an opportunity to become acquainted if there are new people joining the training session.
- b) Introduce the program by its title and explain to participants what they are expected to learn as stated in the Program Objectives of the Fact Sheet.
- c) Play the program without interruption. Upon completion, lead discussions about your organization's specific policies regarding the subject matter. Make sure to note any unique hazards associated with the program's topic that participants may encounter while performing their job duties at your facility.
- d) Hand out copies of the review quiz to all of the participants and make sure each one completes it before concluding the training session.

**5039 HEAT STRESS:**  
***Working Safely in the Heat (Concise)***  
**FACT SHEET**

**LENGTH: 7 MINUTES**

**PROGRAM SYNOPSIS:**

Working in hot conditions can easily bring on heat-related illnesses if we aren't proactive in preventing them. So it is important to understand that heat stress and heat-related illness can cause more than just discomfort. If it's not treated early enough, it can lead to hospitalization or even death. This program provides an overview of how the body regulates heat and how to recognize the warning signs when these processes aren't working. The viewer will learn to recognize and treat symptoms of various heat-related illnesses. Most importantly, the program offers advice on preventing symptoms from occurring and understanding how to work safely in the heat.

Topics include the symptoms and treatment methods for four heat-related illnesses and the precautions to take to prevent heat-related illnesses.

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**

After watching the program, the participant should be able to explain what the symptoms and treatment methods for various heat-related illnesses are and which precautions to take to prevent heat-related illnesses.

**INSTRUCTIONAL CONTENT:**

**HEAT RASH**

- Heat rash (or "prickly heat") occurs when sweat begins to clog your sweat glands. This also limits your ability to sweat, making it harder for your body to cool itself, leaving you susceptible to more serious heat-related illnesses.
- In most cases, all you need to do is take a break in a cool place and drink water to clear up a mild rash.

**HEAT CRAMPS**

- Other heat-related illnesses can be confused with the effects of simply doing physical work for long periods of time.
- Heat cramps are a result of extended heat exposure and profuse sweating. The loss of minerals, salt, and water through sweat can cause painful muscle spasms in your limbs and body.
- Heat cramps are a warning sign that your body's internal temperature is climbing and can signal that more serious problems are on the way, if you aren't paying attention.
- To treat heat cramps, stop working and rest in a cool area. Drink juice or a sports drink to rehydrate and replenish the minerals and salt that your body needs.

**HEAT EXHAUSTION**

- Some heat-related illnesses can be quite serious. Heat exhaustion can lead to heat stroke, which is fatal if not treated. Like heat cramps, heat exhaustion is brought on by intense physical activity in hot conditions.
- Symptoms of heat exhaustion include intense sweating, blurred vision, rapid breathing, weak pulse and moist cool skin.
- Profuse sweating leads to a loss of minerals, water, and salt, and causes dehydration. Your body's cooling systems go into overdrive and eventually burn out.
- If someone is experiencing heat exhaustion symptoms, get the victim to a cool area where they can lie down. Soak the victim with water or dab them with a cool, damp cloth, then fan them until they've cooled down.
- Encourage the victim to drink small amounts of water, around one glass every 15 minutes. It is also recommended that the victim visits an emergency room or urgent care clinic to get checked out.

**HEAT STROKE**

- If more serious symptoms appear, like nausea and vomiting or loss of consciousness, call 911 immediately! These symptoms indicate that the person may be experiencing heat stroke.

- Heat stroke occurs when body temperatures rise to near-fatal levels, temperatures above 104 degrees Fahrenheit or 40 degrees Celsius. When your body cannot regulate its internal temperature, the organs will begin to shut down, which will lead to death if not treated.

## **PREVENTION**

- Prevention is always the best way to deal with heat-related illnesses. Hydration is the most important part of preventing heat-related illnesses.
- Make sure to pre-hydrate before work, by drinking about two glasses of water, about 16 oz. or a half liter, before you begin working in a hot environment. Drink fluids throughout the day, even if you don't feel thirsty.
- Aim to drink one glass of water for every 20 minutes of work in hot conditions. Flavored water and sports drinks can count towards these totals.
- Avoid coffee, caffeine and alcohol as these have dehydrating effects and can make heat-related illnesses worse.
- Sunburn can cause discomfort, lead to fluid loss and heat-related illnesses. Thirty minutes before going outside, put on a sunblock of SPF 30 or higher. Re-apply every two hours or more often if you are sweating a lot.
- Wear light colored clothing made of breathable fabric. Moisture wicking fabrics can provide additional help moving moisture away from the skin and help it evaporate, keeping you cool and dry.
- Even though you can't avoid wearing your PPE, dressing comfortably underneath will help you from overheating.
- Try to avoid scheduling heavy work during the hottest parts of the day. Tasks that can't be done in the shade should be done early in the day.
- Pay attention to what your body tells you. Don't push yourself too far and don't try to keep up with coworkers just because they don't seem bothered by the heat.
- It's important to take small breaks as needed. Get away from the heat and make sure to rehydrate.
- Being physically fit is important to overall health, but it will also help your body acclimate to heat more quickly.
- Some medications can have an adverse effect on your body. If you take any medications regularly, it is important to pay attention to the side effects. If you are on any medications, talk to your doctor to see if you can safely work in the heat.
- Check in with your coworkers throughout the day to look for signs or symptoms of heat-related illness.
- Because heat-related illness can cause confusion and disorientation, someone experiencing a problem might not realize it or might not think they need help. It's important to always look out for your coworkers. It's better to be safe than sorry.
- If you are going to be working in a hot environment, make sure you are paying attention to the signs of heat-related illness. If you notice any symptoms, stop working and tell your supervisor or a coworker right away. Don't push past the breaking point, because it could cause permanent damage to your body or worse.
- By using these preventative measures, and staying alert to the warning signs, you can continue to stay safe and productive when working in the heat.

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**ANSWERS TO THE REVIEW QUIZ**

1. a

2. a

3. b

4. b

5. b

6. c

7. a

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**REVIEW QUIZ**

*The following questions are provided to determine how well you understand the information presented in this program.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. Heat rash can usually be controlled by taking a break, cooling off and drinking water.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
2. Heat cramps result from the loss of minerals, salt and water through profuse sweating.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
3. While heat exhaustion can be quite serious, it can NOT lead to heat stroke.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
4. You should encourage a victim of heat stroke to drink around one glass of water every \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. 5 minutes
  - b. 15 minutes
  - c. 30 minutes
  
5. You should call 911 immediately if heat stroke symptoms such as nausea, vomiting or lack of consciousness appear.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
6. It is recommended to pre-hydrate before work by drinking 16 ounces of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Coffee
  - b. Energy drinks
  - c. Water