



Safety Council News

Florida Association of Safety Councils - Newsletter

Aug - Sept - Oct 2009 Take care! Safety is no accident!

FASC provides a forum for Florida Safety Councils to examine and act on issues impacting driving, occupational and public safety.

FASC develops safety education programs available to member Councils individually or collectively.

The North Florida Safety Council serves Southeast Alabama, Southwest Georgia and North Florida. The North Florida Safety Council has offices located throughout North Florida. We are a member of the Florida Association of Safety Councils and American Association of Safety Councils.

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FLORIDA IS HOT: WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

There is 5 major factors to monitor to help prevent heat stroke while working. Here are some tips on how to make your work environment cooler and healthier for your body.

1. Work Environment

Isolate heat generating facilities at the workplace and use insulating materials to minimize heat dissipation to other work areas;

Increase air flow by using appropriate ventilation or air conditioning system as appropriate especially in work places such as kitchens and containers;

2. Work Arrangement

Avoid working in the hot environment for prolonged periods of time. Take heed of weather reports and all or most of the work should be rescheduled to:

Cooler periods of daytime, such as early mornings; and..

Cooler places, such as covered or shaded areas.



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Florida is hot: What should you do?

What should you do? (cont..)

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FLORIDA IS HOT: What should you do?

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2. Work Arrangement

Minimize physical demand by using mechanical aids at work.

Make arrangements for employees to rest in a cool or shady place during very hot periods.

Allow employees to take regular breaks or rotate to other worksites within the shift to reduce their exposure to the hot environments.

3. Supply of Cool Portable Water

Provide cool portable water for employees at all times of work.

Encourage employees to take plenty of water or other appropriate beverages to replenish the fluid and electrolytes lost when sweating.

4. Suitable Clothing

Light-colored clothing minimizes heat absorption and enhances heat dissipation.

Loose fitted clothes enhances sweat evaporation; but clothing that is too loose might get

entangled in the moving parts of machinery.

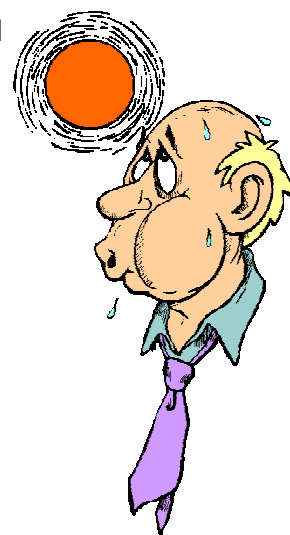
Clothing made of natural materials can enhance heat dissipation.

The broad edge of a helmet or wide brimmed hat can avoid direct sunlight on the face, neck, and back.

5. Employees Health

Special attention should be paid to any report of employees suffering from symptoms of heat stroke. Whenever there are any symptoms of heat stroke they should inform their supervisors and take appropriate actions immediately.

Some employees may have difficulties in adapting to the hot working environments, because of their health condition or the effects of drugs. Employers should take this into account and consider the recommendations of the employees attending doctors when assigning work to these employees



PREPARE 20 YOURSELF 09

Hurricane season started on June 1st, and FEMA is urging residents to be prepared for their personal safety and survival in case a hurricane threatens their community. To assist in these efforts, FEMA, along with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is helping to raise awareness of steps that can be taken to help protect citizens, their communities and property. To read more about what FEMA has to say about this hurricane season go to www.fema.gov.

Even President Obama designated May 24th - 30th, 2009 a Hurricane Holiday called National Hurricane Preparedness Week 2009.



OSHA'S ROLE IN THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) was signed into law by President Obama on February 17th, 2009. The Act is an extraordinary response to a crisis unlike any since the Great Depression, and includes measures to modernize our nation's infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need. OSHA's role is to ensure that worker protection laws are enforced as recovery infrastructure investments are carried out. OSHA carries out this responsibility through enforcement of its standards, providing free consultation services to small employers, and outreach to employees and employers regarding hazard awareness and worker protection in affected industries and job classifications. Complete information is readily available from the OSHA.gov home web page.



OSHA

FLORIDA H1N1 Virus "TAKE STEPS TO LOWER THE RISK"

According to the Florida Department of Health, we are now facing the sustained human to human transmission of a novel influenza, Swine-Origin Influenza A (H1N1) Virus. The current virus has shown to be susceptible to antiviral medications. The department is committed to ensuring that all Florida residents and visitors have access to antiviral medication for the H1N1 Influenza virus. At this time, we understand that there are sufficient antiviral medications available through retail market. If Florida should experience temporary shortfalls in the retail market, DOH has stated that they have a state stockpile of antivirals pre-positioned around the state. No vaccine is currently available to specifically prevent infection with the novel influenza A (H1N1) virus.

What can I do to prevent infection?

Nothing, because there is no vaccine to permanently prevent you from being infected but you can take steps to lower the risk.

What are the Steps to Lower the Risk?

Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.

Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.

Use disinfectants on frequently touched surfaces. Germs can also be spread when a person touches an infected surface and then touches their own eyes, mouth or nose.

FASC Now Offering

IMOT & IMOT Refresher (Intermediate Maintenance of Traffic)

For more info & class schedules call your local North Florida Safety Council

Toll Free: 1-888-905-8959, Ext. 106

MISSION STATEMENT

The **Florida Association of Safety Councils (FASC)** members are private, not-for-profit, public service organizations.

The objective of the Safety Councils is to promote safety education for businesses, government, traffic, home and recreation. Our goal is to reduce accidents, injuries and deaths.

The Florida Association of Safety Councils provides a forum for Safety Councils to examine and act on issues impacting Floridians on driving, safety and health issues.



FASC is affiliated with the **American Association of Safety Councils (AASC)**, an international association of independent safety councils.

The *Safety Council News* is published six times a year to keep business and industry informed of the Florida Association of Safety Council's activities and safety and health news and developments. NOTE: The information herein was obtained from sources believed reliable and the Association has exercised reasonable care to assure its accuracy. However, the Florida Association of Safety Councils does not guarantee that the contents of the *Safety Council News* are correct and statements from other sources do not necessarily reflect the opinion or position of the Association.