



**Northern Illinois  
University**

# **Heat Related Illness Issues for the OHS Professional**

**NEIL ASSP Meeting**  
April 14, 2023

William Mills  
Michael Schmoldt  
Mark Lies

# Disclaimer



- The mention of any specific technology or company name is for illustrative purposes and does not constitute endorsement by NIU or the researchers
- All opinions in this presentation are the authors. This is a rapidly evolving area, so they are subject to modification with more data (and data analysis)

# Extreme Heat



It's happening now!



## Global urban population exposure to extreme heat

Cascade Tuholske<sup>a,b,c,1</sup>, Kelly Caylor<sup>a,d</sup>, Chris Funk<sup>a,b</sup>, Andrew Verdin<sup>e</sup>, Stuart Sweeney<sup>e</sup>, Kathryn Grace<sup>a,f</sup>

pare exposure trends across geographies. Our results suggest that previous research underestimates extreme heat exposure, highlighting the urgency for targeted adaptations and early warning systems to reduce harm from urban extreme heat exposure.


climate change | hazards | public health | sustainability | urbanization

Science

## 'This Was Preventable': Football Heat Deaths and the Rising Temperature

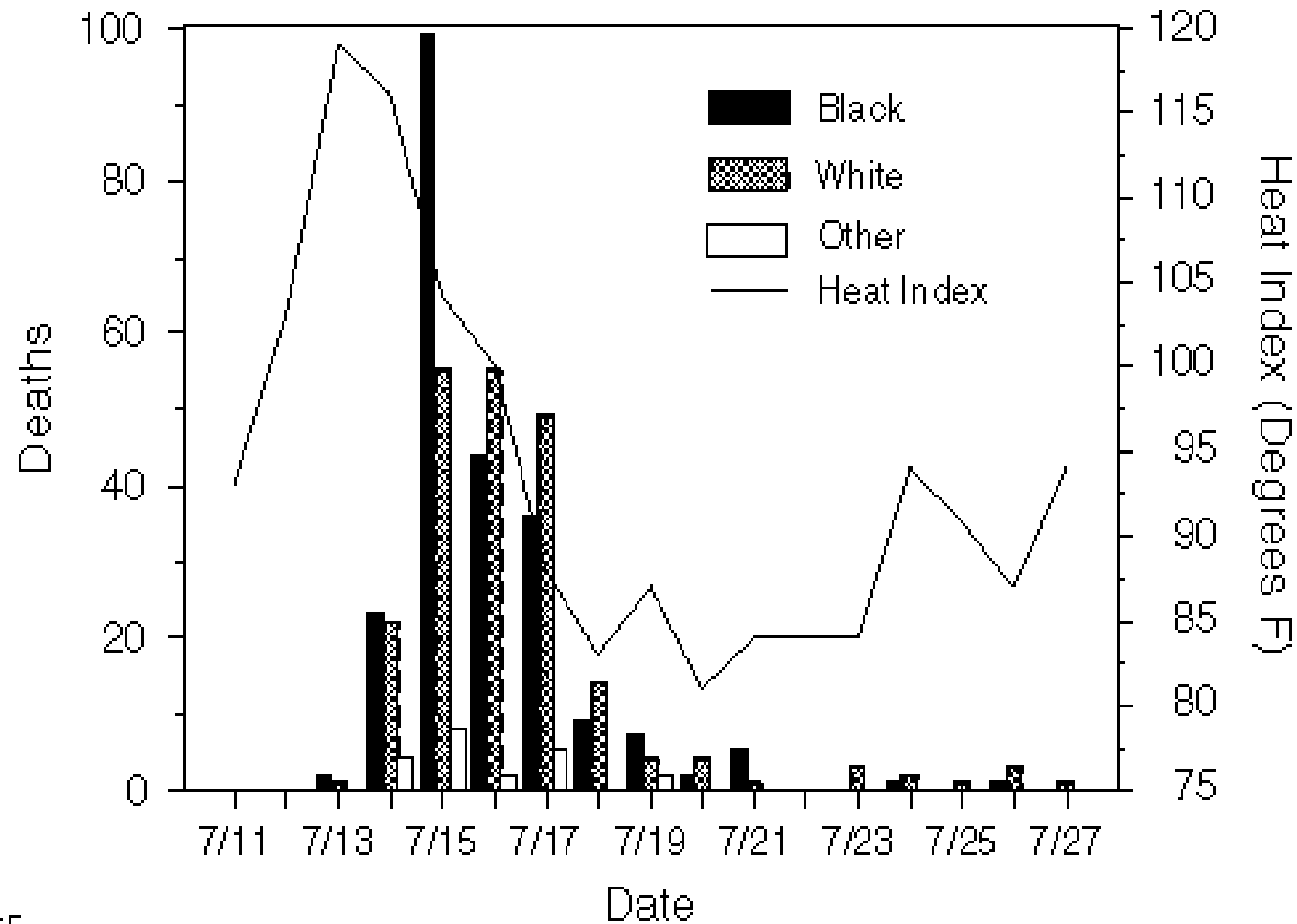
Most states rank poorly on heat safety for their high school football players. Too many teens have paid the price, and temperatures are only getting worse.



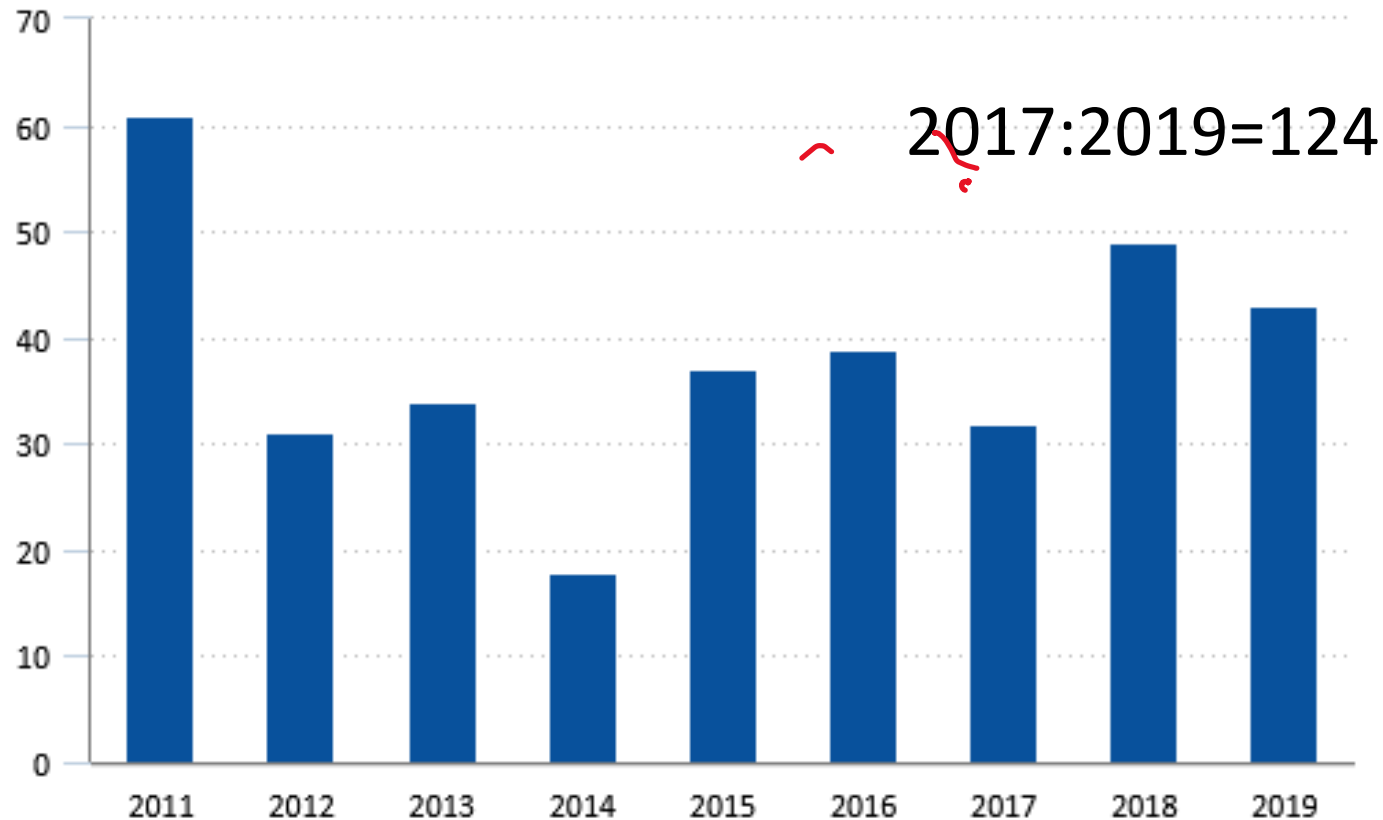
By James Bruggers   
July 20, 2018



# Chicago 1995-Deaths vs. Heat Index (HI)



# US work-related deaths due to environmental heat exposure 2011-2019



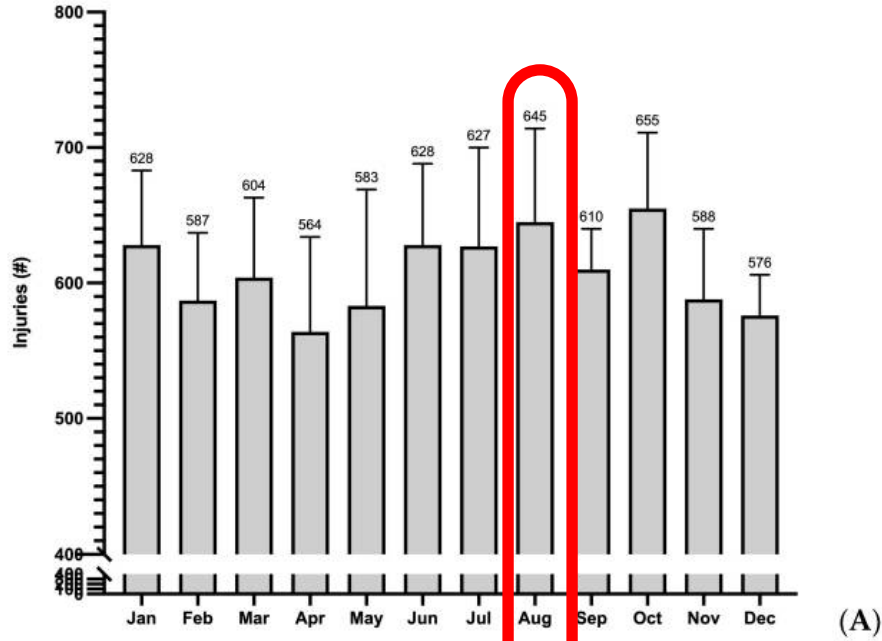
Hover over chart to view data.  
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Morrissey et al 2023  
2017-2019=78

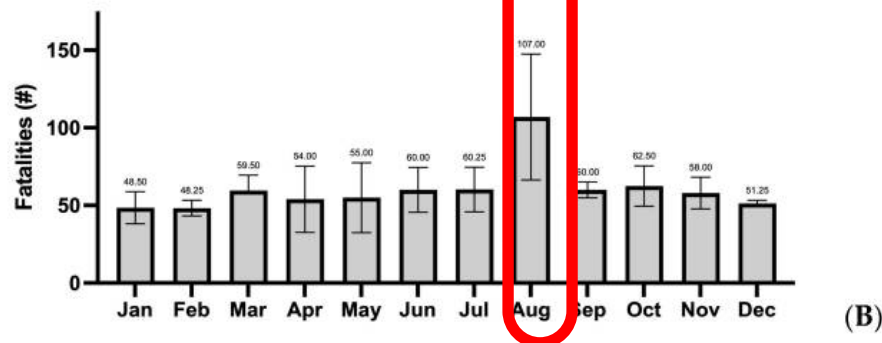
Morrissey, M. C., Z. Y. Kerr, et al. (2023).  
"Analysis of Exertion-Related Injuries and  
Fatalities in Laborers in the United States." Int J  
Environ Res Public Health, 20 (3).

907 U.S. workers from  
1992-2019  
2021 OSHA Proposed Rulemaking

# Heat related injuries and Fatalities in US Labor Force (2015-2020)



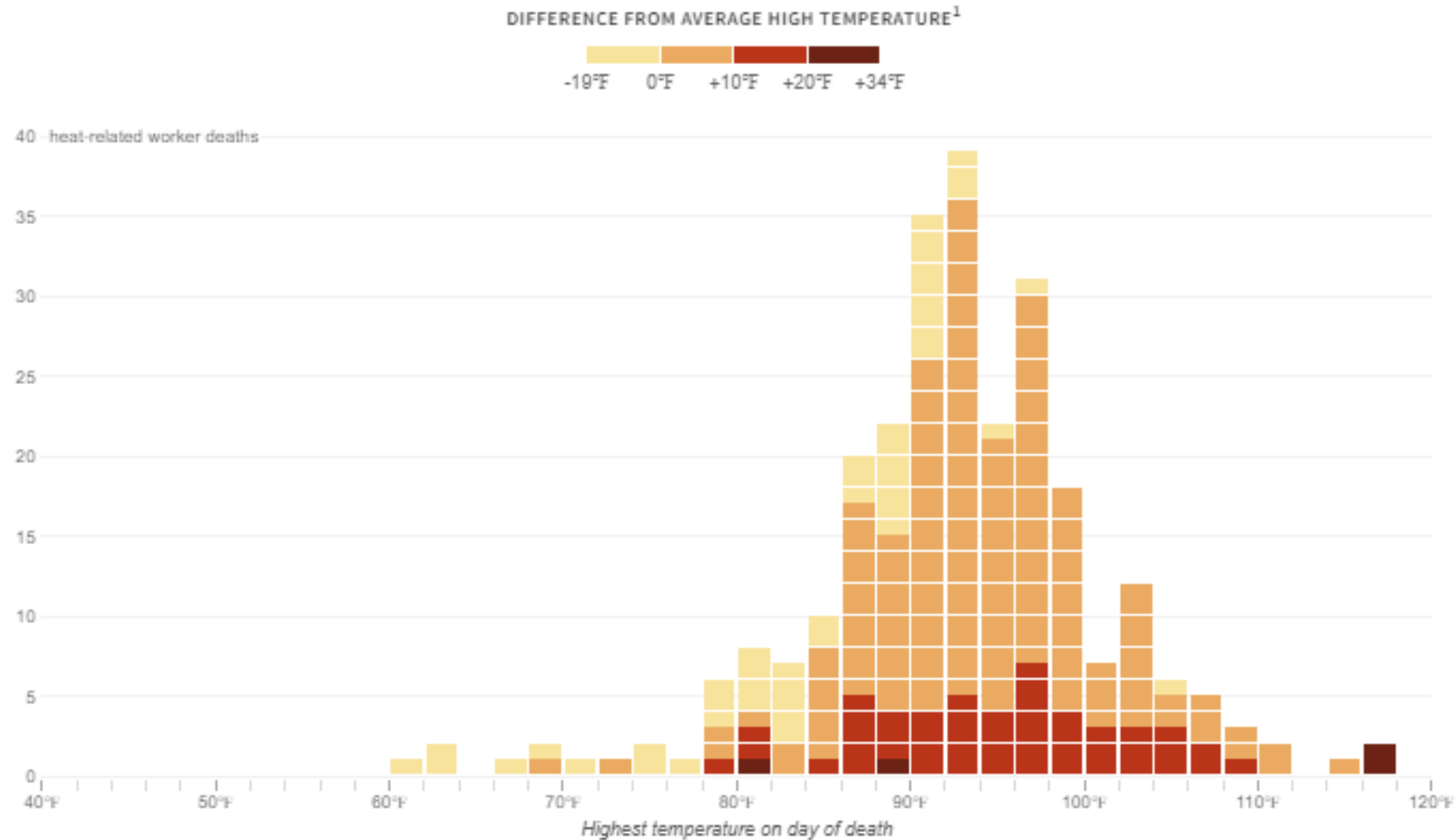
(A)



(B)

Morrissey, M. C., Z. Y. Kerr, et al. (2023). "Analysis of Exertion-Related Injuries and Fatalities in Laborers in the United States." *Int J Environ Res Public Health*, 20 (3). <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9916328/#app1-ijerph-20-02683>

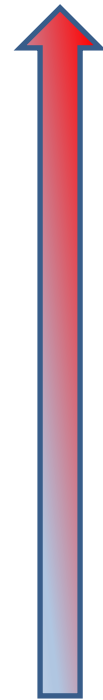
# Most Heat-Related Worker Deaths Happened On 90°-Plus, Hotter-Than-Average Day



# Types of Heat Related Illness terms



- Heat Stroke
- Heat Exhaustion
- Rhabdomyolosis
- Heat Syncope
- Heat Cramps
- Heat Rash



Most Serious ( **Medical Emergency** )

# Reasons for concern



- injury and fatality rates remain small (0.20 and 0.0160 per 100,000 full-time equivalent worker years), BUT
  1. OSHRC cases
  2. Chronic Kidney Disease(CKD) in Agricultural workers (V)
  3. OSHA proposed rulemaking and NEP
  4. Disproportionate geographical distribution (SE)
  5. Continued climate change

AIHA, ACGIH, ASSP, NSC (& others) alternatives to address Heat Stress

# Implementation of a Heat Stress & Strain Program



Proven Methods for a recognized occupational hazard

*These are my personal thoughts on this topic  
informed by my experience in agriculture,  
construction, industry, governmental and consulting  
workplaces and organizations. 1972-2023*

-Mike Schmoldt, PE, CIH, CHMM



# Using physiological monitoring to manage heat stress



Workers are covered head to toe in protective clothing and gear at the Hanford nuclear reservation tank farms, even when the heat soars to 107 degrees. - Courtesy Washington River Protection Solutions

HANFORD

## 107 degrees. Heat-trapping gear. So why no heat illnesses at Hanford tank farms?

OSHA VPP Star  
Award Winner 2014



BY ANNETTE CARY

## WRPS wins innovation award for heat stress mitigation

WRPS continues to receive national recognition for developing innovative tools and programs that advance worker safety.

On Feb. 21, the Campbell Institute at the National Safety Council presented WRPS with the 2017 Campbell Innovation Challenge for establishing a physiological monitoring program that has eliminated heat stress cases the past two years at the tank farms.

The Innovation Challenge award recognizes organizations for their achievement in the planning or implementation of an innovative program addressing critical environmental, health and safety topics in a way that demonstrates creative thinking, strategic implementation and significant impact.

"The Campbell Innovation Challenge award demonstrates not only the creativity and forward thinking of our employees, but also their steadfast commitment to protecting their co-workers, the public and the environment," said WRPS President and Project Manager Mark Lindholm, who accepted the award on behalf of WRPS and AECOM at the Campbell Symposium in New Orleans. "I'm very proud to be a part of team that constantly strives to make the tank farms a safer place to work."

This is the third time in the past two years that WRPS has received a national award for safety innovation. The company earned the Voluntary Protection Program's Innovation award in both 2015 and 2016.

In 2015, WRPS was honored for developing a tool to help reduce worker exposure during surveys of radioactive equipment used to retrieve tank waste. And last year, the company was lauded for helping develop a face shield that protects a worker wearing full-face respiratory equipment from an electrical arc flash.

### What is physiological monitoring?

Physiological monitoring, or PM, measures the level of an individual's heat strain in response to heat-stress conditions. The WRPS program involves monitoring employees' heart rates using a novel chest-mounted heart rate monitor that allows for remote, real-time assessment of heat strain and core body temperature using a tympanic membrane thermometer for periodic assessment of heat strain.

"The great thing about our program is that it allows us to protect workers, by removing them from harmful heat-related tasks before they develop any heat-stress symptoms," said Edward Sinclair, an industrial hygienist who leads the WRPS Heat Stress Program.



WRPS President Mark Lindholm accepted the 2017 Campbell Innovation Challenge award Feb. 21 at the Campbell Symposium in New Orleans.

In the past, WRPS and other Hanford contractors conducted assessments for heat stress using wet bulb globe temperature measurement and relied on self-reporting of symptoms. When workers had symptoms, they exited the work location, removed multiple layers of personal protective equipment and had their heart pulse rate measured.

The WRPS PM program was spearheaded by former WRPS employee Mike Schmoldt and implemented in late summer 2014. Sinclair took over the program in December 2014 and spent several months developing more robust procedures in preparation for the 2015 heat stress season.

That first full PM campaign, which ran from May through September 2015, was conducted during one of the hottest

*Continued on page 2...*

# What I'll cover



- Role of a H&S professional *(as I see it)*
- Heat Stress Management Plan (HSMP)
- Adopting heat stress exposure limits
  - ACGIH/NIOSH, ISO, or military
- Tiered/Accurate environmental exposure assessment
- Calculating TWA exposure for OELs
- Environmental and Physiological Monitoring
- Closing summary

# The role of the H&S professional



- Anticipate and prevent thermal hazard excess exposure situation
- Recognize thermal stress conditions and exposure limits
- Deciding when to cease worker exposure and begin recovery
- Use *sufficiently* accurate measurements to inform decisions
- Support planning and execution of safe work practices
- Observe and monitor field conditions to verify control effectiveness
- Training/interpretation/communication
- Barriers
  - Legacy practices
  - Everyone is an 'expert' based on life experience, weather reports
  - Whatever you say will be 'wrong'
  - Lacking recognized 'requirements'
  - Worker's job jeopardy concerns

# Key elements of a HEAT STRESS MANAGEMENT plan

## The Heavy Lifting



- **Written policy/plan**
- General and Job Specific Controls
- Acclimatization
- **Environmental & Personal Monitoring**
- Training
- Hygiene/Hydration
- Emergency Respons
- Recordkeeping

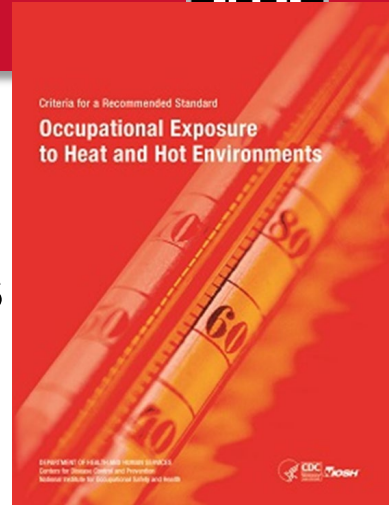


- Must have management, supervisor and worker buyin and acceptance
- Must work through any medical/privacy, contract, HR, cyber/security and legal issues
- Provide the authority for the safety professional
- Is PM voluntary or mandatory?
- Describe how information will be used to make decisions
  - When to discontinue exposure
  - When is it safe to resume?
- Clarify recordkeeping

# Occupational Exposure limits for Heat Stress



- No specific federal regulatory requirements
    - State specific regulations are evolving
  - OSHA's General duty clause to protect workers from recognized hazards
  - Organization legacy documents which may be inadequate
  - Your written plan selected limits can be used in enforcement actions
  - Don't wait for incidents or enforcement to tell you how to manage exposures!
- 
- Your organization should determine which criteria to adopt
    - ACGIH *Heat Stress and Strain TLV*
    - NIOSH *Occupational Exposure to Heat and Hot Environments*
    - ISO 7243, 7932 *Ergonomics of Thermal Environment: Predicted Heat Strain*
    - Military: *Technical Bulletin Med 502003* (new version pending)
    - Others (you should have a good justification and verify it is science based)



# ACGIH Action Levels (AL) and Threshold Limit Values (TLV)



## Strengths

- Recommendations, not requirements, not consensus standards
- Widely used in U.S. and internationally
- Often cited by OSHA as a reasonable standard of care (see Technical Enforcement Manual)
- Decades of successful use in a variety of government, industrial and commercial uses

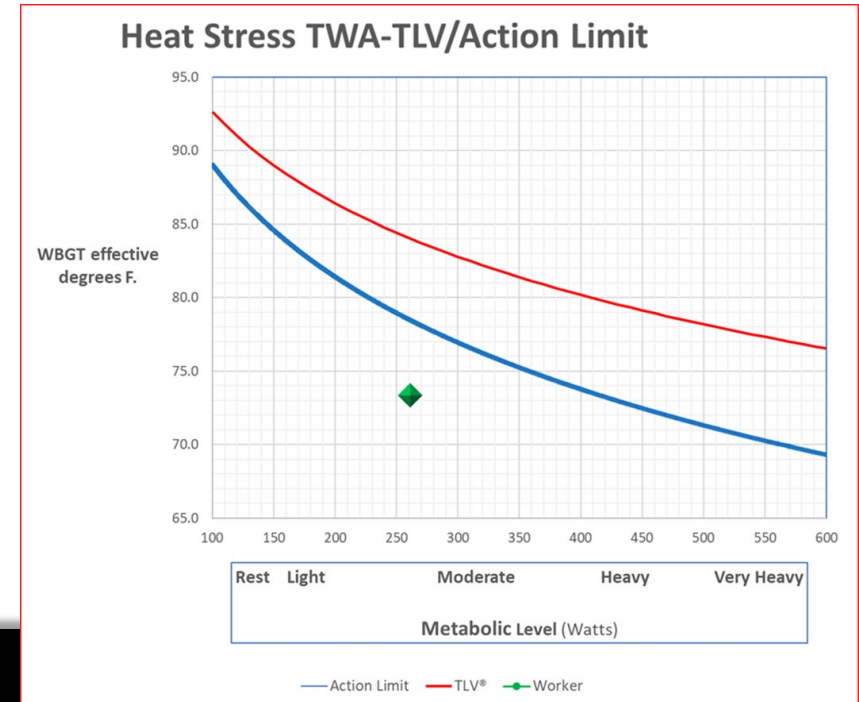
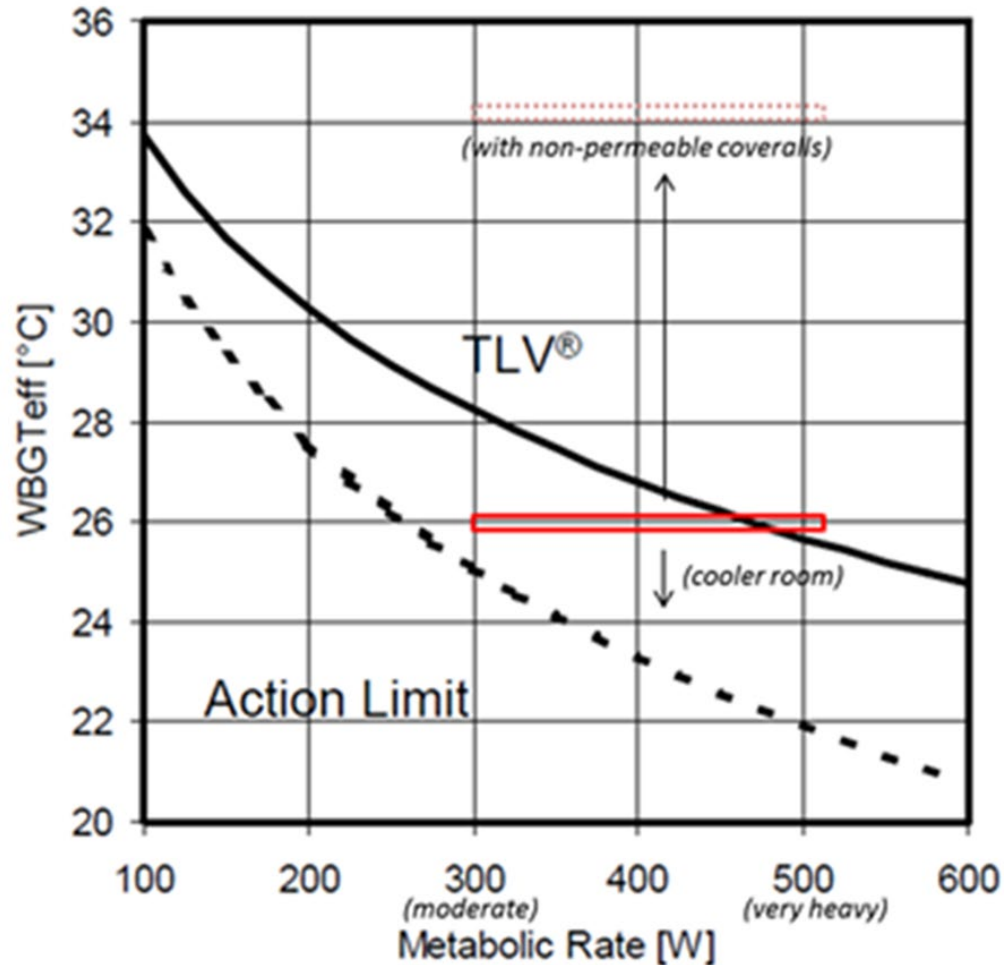
## Qualifiers

- Limited adjustment for age, weight and other worker health variables.
- Updated emphasis on Warning, Written Policies and HSMP (2023 revision)
- Intended for use by qualified health and safety professionals
- Developed for 8hour shift TWA 40 hour/week healthy workers
- Must be used in conjunction with the ACGIH documentation on thermal stress
  - A PM guidance document is under development by ACGIH

# ALs and TLVs



- Need to use several inputs to calculate where a specific situation is with regard to the limit
- A graphical result is optional, but is an effective communications tool



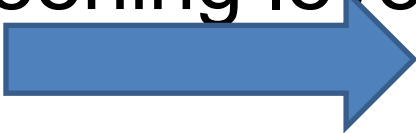
# Levels of thermal stress and strain



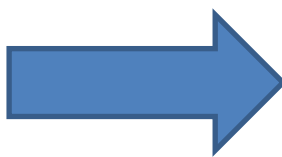
Not expected



Screening levels



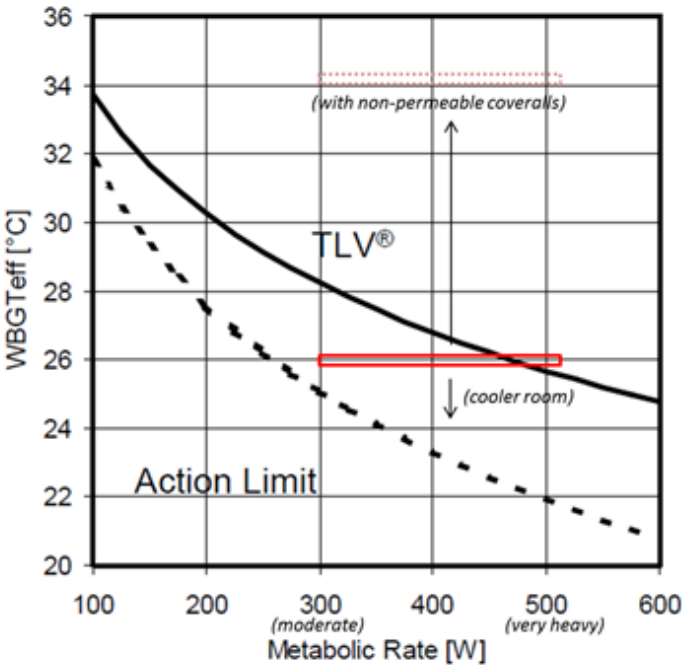
TLV/AL



Ex

Table F-1 Work/Rest Regimens

Work Demands	Unacclimated							
	Light	Moderate	Heavy	Very Heavy	Light	Moderate	Heavy	Very Heavy
100% Work	≤81.5	≤77.0	≤72.5	*	≤85.1	≤81.5	≤78.8	*
75% Work 25% Rest	81.6 – 84.2	77.1- 79.7	72.6- 76.1	*	85.2- 86.9	81.6- 83.3	78.9- 81.5	*
50% Work 50% Rest	84.3- 86.0	79.8- 82.4	76.2- 79.7	≤77.0	87.0- 88.6	83.4- 85.1	81.6- 83.3	≤81.5
25% Work 75% Rest	86.1- 87.8	82.5- 84.2	79.8- 82.4	77.1- 79.7	88.7- 90.5	85.2- 87.8	83.4- 86.0	81.6- 85.1



# Three suggested 'bins' for heat stress



## 1) Use Screening Table

- Heat Stress Exposure based on  $WBGT_{eff}$  & Work Effort
- OR

## 2) Detailed Analysis:

- Based on objective data (historic or documented studies)
  - Consideration of the level Metabolic Activity (Time-Weighted Effort)
  - Data representing working conditions (Time-Weighted  $WBGT_{eff}$ )
- OR

## 3). Physiological Monitoring (PM)

- Provides real time feedback and control
- Less reliant on estimates or conservative assumptions
- Limits for ceasing exposure until recovery is complete
- Basis for determining if existing controls are adequate or not

(WBGT <sub>effective</sub> ) °F See Note 1	Work / Rest Cycle Per Hour (minutes) See Notes 2 & 3				Prevention and Control Strategy See Note 4
> 86.0	Contact Heat Stress SME	Contact Heat Stress SME	Contact Heat Stress SME	Contact Heat Stress SME	Contact Heat Stress SME prior to start of work for consultation regarding control methods and physiological monitoring requirements and/or heat stress control plan if work/rest cycle must be exceeded
86.0	15/45				
85.1	30/30				
84.2	30/30				
83.3	45/15	15/45	Contact Heat Stress SME	Contact Heat Stress SME	Implement mandatory work/rest cycle AND some combination of the general heat stress controls in Exhibit G (such as cool / shaded recovery location, hydration stations, etc.)
82.4	60/0	15/45			
80.6	60/0	30/30			
78.8	60/0	45/15			
77.9	60/0	45/15	30/30	15/45	OR Work with Heat Stress SME for physiological monitoring and / or a heat stress control plan if work/rest cycle must be exceeded
77.0	60/0	60/0	30/30	15/45	
76.1	60/0	60/0	30/30	30/30	
≤ 75.2	60/0	60/0	45/15	30/30	
	Light	Moderate	Heavy	Very Heavy	
	Work Category				

# Heat Stress Exposure Time Weighted Average (TWA) Calculation

Version 3.2 August 25, 2022

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Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) when form is filled out with personally identifiable employee information.

## Job Description:

Prepared by:

Date:

Notes:

Location

ated output fields are highlighted in a  
ser input fields are highlighted in yellow

Inputs

Comments

Worker  
identification

- Define Work
- Analyze the Hazards
- Develop and Implement Hazard Controls
- Perform Work Within the Controls
- Provide Feedback and Continuous Improvement



worker weight (lb.)

210

Value in lbs. reported by worker

ratio

1.36

worker weight in lb. / 154 lb. standard worker

worker age (years)

50

Value in years reported by worker

target heart rate

130

180-age = maximum value in beats per minute

Is the worker  
acclimatized?

no

Acclimatization requires at least 2 hours/day for 5 of last 7 days or 10 of last 14 days.

TWA factors

Time (min)

WBGT °F

Clothing  
Adjustment  
Factor °F

WBGT  
effective °F

Metabolic  
Level (Watts)

Weight  
adjusted  
metabolic  
level

Comments

Pre-job

5

72.0

0.0

72.0

115

157

Task 1

20

72.0

26.2

98.2

360

491

Task 2

0

75.0

0.0

75.0

0

0

Recovery

35

72.0

0.0

72.0

115

157

total time (min)

60

segments for continuous work patterns or  
up to 2 hours for irregular patterns  
including rest periods. ACGIH  
documentation p. 22 2009. See comments  
workbook page line #5.

## Calculated Values

268.2

TWA in Watts for total time worked

value used in x coordinate of graph

Input and Calc

Reference Tables

Graphics Input

Comments

Change Log

# Environmental Monitoring for Heat Stress



- Moderate conditions don't require high accuracy
- Select a method accurate enough to support the decision being made.
- As conditions approach significant heat stress, accuracy becomes paramount
- WBGT is the gold standard in occ. health
  - Using it consistently avoids confusion

# Predicting WBGT conditions



- Use of James Liljegren's model
- Equivalent methods are available, but you need to understand any assumptions and limitations used to simplify calculations
- NWS has limited regional WBGT trial site
- NWS meteorological forecasts ~3 days out
- Regional historical data
- Site specific data if available.
- Prior monitoring results from similar conditions.



# Calculating WBGT from meteorological data



- Essential for planning future work
- Conditions should be chosen to represent actual work situation
- NWS meteorological inputs
- Solar radiance input from actual data tables
- Program developed by Argonne meteorologist James Liljegren
- Available for Windows & web online
- Peerreviewed publications

A screenshot of a web-based WBGT calculator interface. The interface has a title bar 'WBGT' and a menu bar 'File Options Help'. It contains several input fields for meteorological data and a section for calculated results.

Input Field	Value	Unit
Air Temperature	77.1	F
Solar Irradiance	150	W/m^2
Wind Speed	0	mph
Relative Humidity	83.5	%
Time	11:42 AM	(GMT-5)
Date	July 27, 2017	
10m-2m Delta Temperature	0	F (only needed when the wind speed measurement height is not 2 meters)
Atmospheric Pressure	29.9139	in Hg

Calculated Result	Value
Globe Temperature	89.6 F
Natural Wet Bulb Temperature	78.2 F
Psychrometric Wet Bulb Temperature	73.2 F
Wet Bulb Globe Temperature	80.4 F
Heat Index	78.6 F
Army Heat Category	1

# Physiological Monitoring



## DOE Hanford Site — Richland, Washington

WRPS (AECOM) uses physiological monitoring to manage heat stress



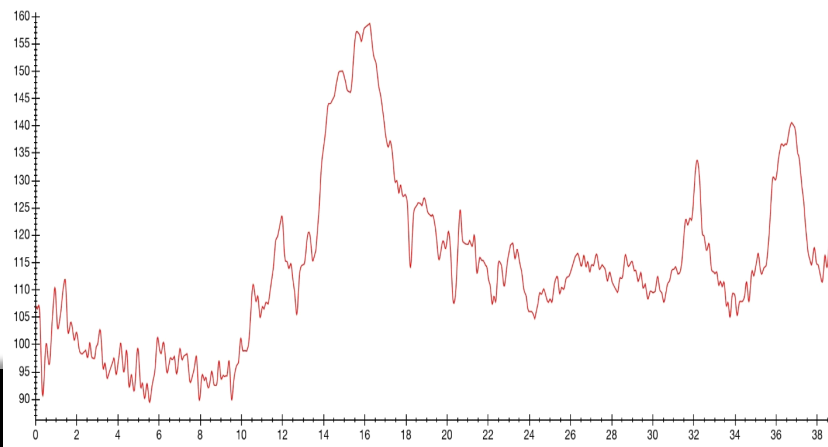
Workers are covered head to toe in protective clothing and gear at the Hanford nuclear reservation tank farms, even when the heat soars to 107 degrees. — Courtesy Washington River Protection Solutions

107 degrees. Heat-trapping gear. So why no heat illnesses at Hanford tank farms?

BY ANNETTE GARY



Worker heart rate by Polar Heart Monitor



- *NEVER ignore signs and symptoms of excessive thermal strain by workers*
- Cohort sampling: all or selected workers?
- Understand artifacts and limitations of selected method/hardware
  - Heart Rate, Worker Core Temperature
- Point, continuous logging or direct safety staff oversight?
- These records are **valuable** resources for assessing effectiveness, planning future similar work and targeting when PM is still needed. *The key to mastering your specific workplace controls effectiveness*

# Planned ACGIH guidance document on Physiological Monitoring



- Similar to previous documents on Laser, Noise and other Physical Agents.
- Tiered approach depending on field expertise
- Take advantage of advances in continuous monitoring technology
- Interpretation of results (nonmedical)
- When to 'pause' or 'stop work' based on HSMP policies adopted
- Use of baseline values for comparison rather than absolute values
- Recordkeeping and communication of results (privacy concerns)
- Basis for future detailed analysis of similar task conditions

# Summary



- Thermal exposure is like any other physical or chemical exposure hazard, there are generally safe exposure limits for healthy workers
- The HSMP is the foundation of your program and authority to protect workers from thermal stress
- Predicting and planning for excessive thermal conditions is as important as monitoring working situation
- The tiered approach of using screening is a proven effective tool for worker protection
- Professionals use professional methods and instruments

YOU are the first line in  
protecting workers from  
this recognized serious hazard

Excel TWA spreadsheet available from  
[mikeschmoldt@hotmail.com](mailto:mikeschmoldt@hotmail.com) or [gmooss@anl.gov](mailto:gmooss@anl.gov)





# Heat Illness in the Workplace

Click to add subtitle

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Adam R. Young

May 13, 2022  
Seyfarth Shaw LLP

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# Heat Illness Legal Liabilities



- Employer Obligations
  - General Duty Clause Section 5(a)(1)
  - Whistleblower Protection– Section 11(c)
- 2017 Federal OSHA Statistics
  - 11 Citations
  - 55 Hazard Alert Letters
- Representative Cases
  - *Secretary of Labor v. Aldridge Electric, Inc.*, OSHRC Docket No.-2319 (OSHRC ALJ 2016)
  - *Secretary of Labor v. A.H. Sturgill Roofing, Inc.* (OSHRC 2019)
  - *Secretary of Labor v. UPS*, Nos. 161713, 161813, 161872, 170023, 170279 (OSHRC ALJ July 15, 2020)



# Heat Illness Legal Liabilities



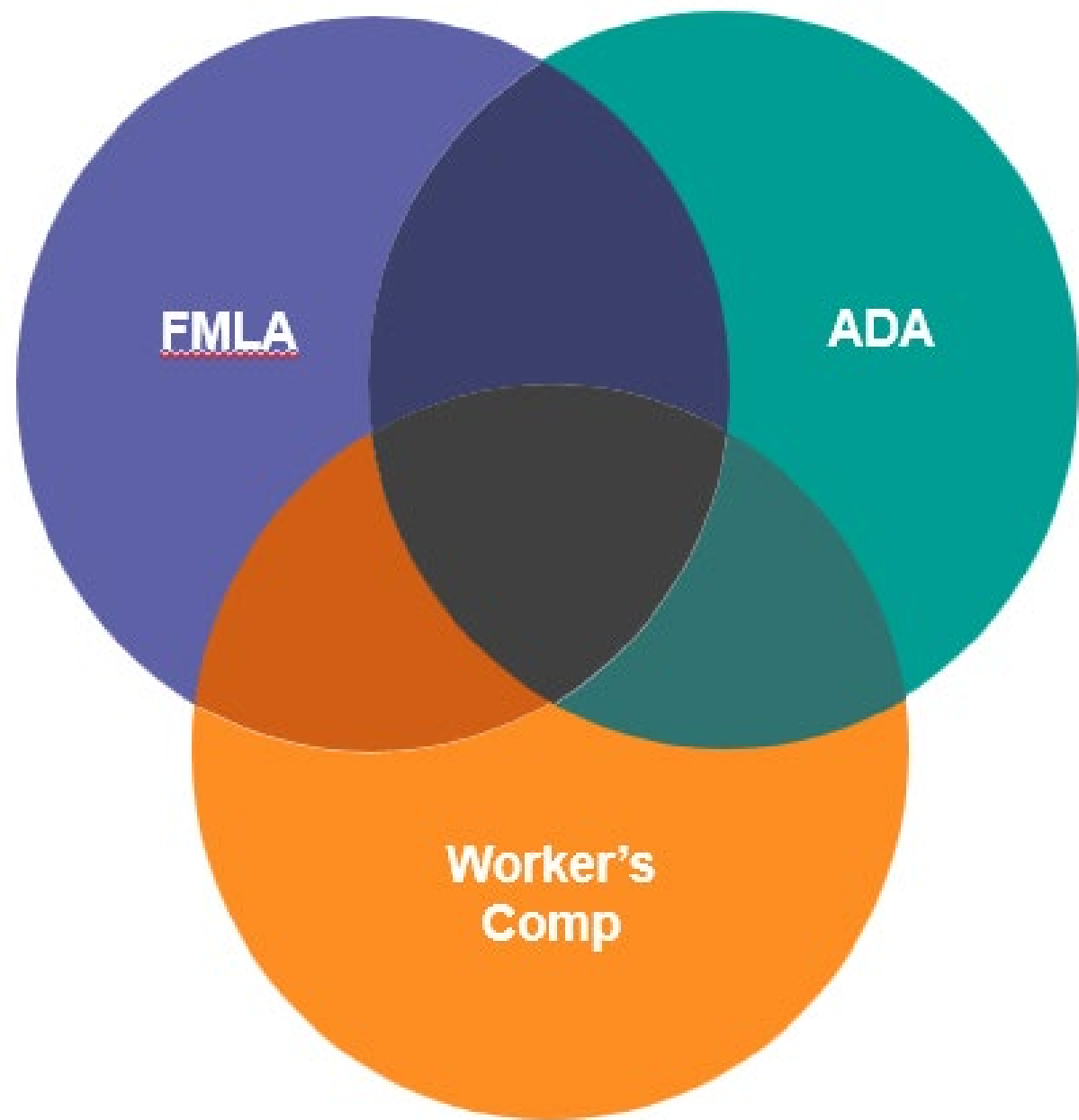
## Employee Rights

- American with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Protected “Disabilities” that May Be Affected by Heat
  - Obesity
  - Diabetes
  - Cardiovascular Disease
- Duty to Hire and Accommodate Qualified Employees with Disabilities

## Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

- Employee Entitlement for Unpaid Leave for Heat Related Illness

# The ADA, FMLA, and Worker's Comp Overlap



# Heat Illness Legal Liabilities



## Workers' Compensation

- An employee who incurs an illness that arises out of and in the course of the employment relationship is protected
- An employee who has a preexisting condition that is aggravated or accelerated by the workplace is also protected
- An employer cannot retaliate against an employee because he or she files a WC claim

# Heat Illness OSHA Standards



- State plan heat illness standards:
  - CA (outdoor heat standard; proposed indoor heat standard)
  - CO (agriculture, effective 5/22)
  - MD (law required MEOSHA to adopt by 10/22)
  - NV (proposed rule)
  - OR (proposed rule, anticipated 4/22)
  - WA (outdoor heat standard, 5/9/30, 89 degrees+)

# State-Specific Heat Illness Standards – *California*



- Started as an emergency standard; made permanent in 2006 under 8 CCR 3395
- Applies to all outdoor places of employment
  - one that is not an indoor workplace
- Cal/OSHA can (and does) cite employers for indoor heat hazards under its IIPP standard
  - rulemaking for an indoor heat standard underway



# State-Specific Heat Illness Standards – *California*



- **Primary requirements:**

- ✓ Develop and implement a written heat illness prevention program.
- ✓ Train all employees and supervisors about heat illness prevention
- ✓ Emergency response procedures
- ✓ Acclimatization
- ✓ Provide enough fresh water so that each employee can drink at least 1 quart per hour.
- - applies regardless of temperature
- ✓ **Provide access to shade.**
  - applies when temperature exceeds 80°F
  - if less than 80°F, still have to make shade available upon request.
  - need to encourage workers to take preventive cool down rest if they feel the need
  - risks for employees driving vehicles without AC.



# State-Specific Heat Illness Standards – *California*



- Enhanced requirements when temperatures equals or exceeds 95°F (aka high heat procedures)
  - only for certain industries
    - agriculture
    - construction
    - landscaping
    - oil and gas extraction
  - transportation of heavy materials unless workers are vehicles with AC and work does not require loading/unloading

# State-Specific Heat Illness Standards- Oregon



## Emergency Temporary Rule Issued July 8, 2021

- In effect for 6 months (January 3, 2022)
- In response to June 2021 Pacific Northwest heat wave
- Heat index thresholds:
  - > 80°F
    - Access to shade (not A/C) and cool drinking water
    - Training
  - > 90°F
    - Communication and observation
    - Emergency Medical Plan
    - Acclimatization

# State-Specific Heat Illness Standards - Oregon



- Permanent Rule Issued May 9, 2022
  - Effective June 15, 2022
    - Heat Illness Prevention Plan
      - temperature monitoring
      - Acclimatization Plan
      - Supervisor and Employee Training
    - Heat index thresholds:
      - > 80°F (+)
        - Access to shade (not A/C)
        - Cool drinking water (32oz/hr)
      - > 90°F (+)
        - Communication and observation (actively monitor temperature)
        - Work/Rest Schedule
  - Exempt:
    - Exposed < 15 min/hr
    - Heat generated from work process
      - still have basic requirements
    - Emergency operations
    - Operations with artificial cooling to reduce temperature below 80°F

# State-Specific Heat Illness Standards- Oregon - Sample Work/Rest Schedule



<u>Adjusted temperature (°F)<sup>†</sup></u>	<u>Light work (minutes work/rest)</u>	<u>Moderate work (minutes work/rest)</u>	<u>Heavy work (minutes work/rest)</u>
90	Normal	Normal	Normal
91	Normal	Normal	Normal
92	Normal	Normal	Normal
93	Normal	Normal	Normal
94	Normal	Normal	Normal
95	Normal	Normal	45/15
96	Normal	Normal	45/15
97	Normal	Normal	40/20
98	Normal	Normal	35/25
99	Normal	Normal	35/25
100	Normal	45/15	30/30
101	Normal	40/20	30/30
102	Normal	35/25	25/35
103	Normal	30/30	20/40
104	Normal	30/30	20/40
105	Normal	25/35	15/45
106	45/15	20/40	Caution <sup>†</sup>
107	40/20	15/45	Caution <sup>†</sup>
108	35/25	Caution <sup>†</sup>	Caution <sup>†</sup>
109	30/30	Caution <sup>†</sup>	Caution <sup>†</sup>
110	15/45	Caution <sup>†</sup>	Caution <sup>†</sup>
111	Caution <sup>†</sup>	Caution <sup>†</sup>	Caution <sup>†</sup>
112	Caution <sup>†</sup>	Caution <sup>†</sup>	Caution <sup>†</sup>

<sup>†</sup>With the assumption that workers are physically fit, well-rested, fully hydrated, under age 40, and have adequate water intake and that there is 30% RH [relative humidity] and natural ventilation with perceptible air movement.

# State-Specific Heat Illness Standards- Washington



- Permanent Rule Issued July 5, 2008
  - Outdoor Heat Exposure Only
    - May 1–September 30  
thresholds:
      - > 52°F–chemical resistant suits
      - > 77°F–double-woven clothing
      - > 89°F–all other clothing
  - Requirements:
    - Training regarding heat illness
    - Include heat exposure in Accident Prevention Program
    - Encourage employees to consume  $H_2O$  or other hydration
    - Employees responsible for self-monitoring
      - Employees showing signs & symptoms must be relieved and monitored
  - Exempt:
    - Exposed < 15 min/hr

# State-Specific Heat Illness Standards

## Washington



- Temporary Rule Effective July 13, 2021
  - Expired November 6, 2021
  - In response to June 2021 Pacific Northwest heat wave
  - Added prescriptive measures for “high heat” (> 100°F)
    - Water required to be “cool”
    - Have and maintain one or more areas with shade at all times while employees are present.
      - May use artificial body cooling methods in lieu of shade
    - Ensure employees take preventative cool down rest periods
      - 10 min / 2 hr.



# State-Specific Heat Illness Standards

## Washington



- Permanent Rulemaking Initiated August 17, 2021
  - Stakeholder meetings ongoing
  - No draft language yet
- **L&I Will Adopt 2022 Temporary Rule (exp. 6/1/22)**
  - Acclimatization
    - Lost when > 7 days away
  - Access to shade
    - Other measures appropriate
  - Additional > 89°F Requirements
    - Mandatory rest breaks 10 min / 2hr
    - Effective communication
    - Effective observation
  - Training
    - Acclimatization
    - Rest periods
    - Preventative measures



# OSHA Heat Illness Prevention Program



- 1) Heat acclimatization program for new employees returning to work from absences of three or more days
- 2) Formalized work/rest regimen based on environmental working conditions and metabolic heat
- 3) Guidelines for removal of employees through worksite monitoring when employees are exhibiting signs and symptoms of heat related illness
- 4) Provide cool, climate controlled areas where employees can recover when signs of heat related illnesses are recognized

# OSHA Heat Illness Prevention Program



- 5) Ensure employees and supervisors understand the signs, symptoms and prevention of heat-related illnesses and disorders
- 6) Provide employees with information on certain medical conditions and medications that may increase the risk of developing heat-related illness.
  - Advise employees to consult with their doctors or pharmacist
- 7) Track weather conditions at the job site
  - dry bulb temperature, wet bulb temperature, globe thermometer temperature, relative humidity, and wind speed

# OSHA Heat Illness Prevention Program



- **Evaluating Employee Work Tasks To Determine Metabolic Heat**
  - Feasibility of Assessing Specific Work Tasks (tools, weights, repetitions, etc.) to Determine Potential Employee Heat Generation
  - Individual Employee Pre-Existing Physical Health Conditions
  - Employer Restrictions On Inquiries Into Employee-Existing Health Condition (GINA, ADA, Employee Privacy)
  - Employer Restrictions On Company Conducting Medical Examinations (ADA, Employee Privacy)

# OSHA Heat Illness Prevention Program



## Employer Challenges To Address

- Heat Acclimatization
  - Determining when Environmental Conditions Require Acclimatization
  - Identification of Particular Jobs for Acclimatization
  - Availability of Sufficient Employees To Perform Work
  - Impact of Time Off Work
  - Impact on Collective Bargaining Agreements
- Work/Rest Regimen
  - Determining when Environmental Conditions Require Regimen
  - Determining Time Frame for Work/Rest Period
  - Availability of Sufficient Employees To Perform Work

# Heat Illness Prevention Program



## Removal Of Employees

- Objective Criteria for Signs And Symptoms of Heat Related Illness For Removal
- Difficulty Determining Whether Individual Employee is Experiencing Heat Related Illness

# Thank You!



**Mark A. Lies II**  
Partner  
Chicago



**Adam R. Young**  
Partner  
Chicago


# 2 (?) OSHRC cases



https://www.oshrc.gov/assets/1/18/13-2119.pdf?5041

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1 of 54 Automatic Zoom



United States of America  
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION  
1120 20th Street, N.W., Ninth Floor  
Washington, DC 20036-3419

SECRETARY OF LABOR,

Complainant,

v.

ALDRIDGE ELECTRIC, INC.,

Respondent.

OSHRC Docket No. 13-2119

- Sec. Labor vs.  
Aldridge Electric,  
Inc. (2013)  
Decided Dec. 2016

# SOL vs USPS



United States of America  
**OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION**  
1120 20<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Ninth Floor  
Washington, DC 20036-3457

SECRETARY OF LABOR,

Complainant,

v.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE,

Respondent.

OSHRC Docket Nos. 16-1713, 16-1872,  
17-0023, 17-0279

San Antonio, Texas (Docket No. 16-1713 )  
Des Moines, Iowa (Docket No. 16-1813)  
Benton, Arkansas (Docket No. 16-1872)  
Houston, Texas (Docket No. 17-0023)  
Martinsburg, West Virginia (Docket No. 17-0279).

# Epidemic of Chronic Kidney Disease in Agricultural Workers



## Exposure to pesticides, heat stress, or both ,or something else?

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# Risk Factors for Heat Related Illness



- Environment
- Activities
- Acclimatization status
- Medications
- Dehydration
- Prior Heat Illness
- Health Conditions
- Other
  - Age >60
  - Clothing
  - Alcohol use

# Thermal Balance-Heat Exchange Model



$$S = M \pm R \pm C \pm E$$

S=Heat Storage Rate

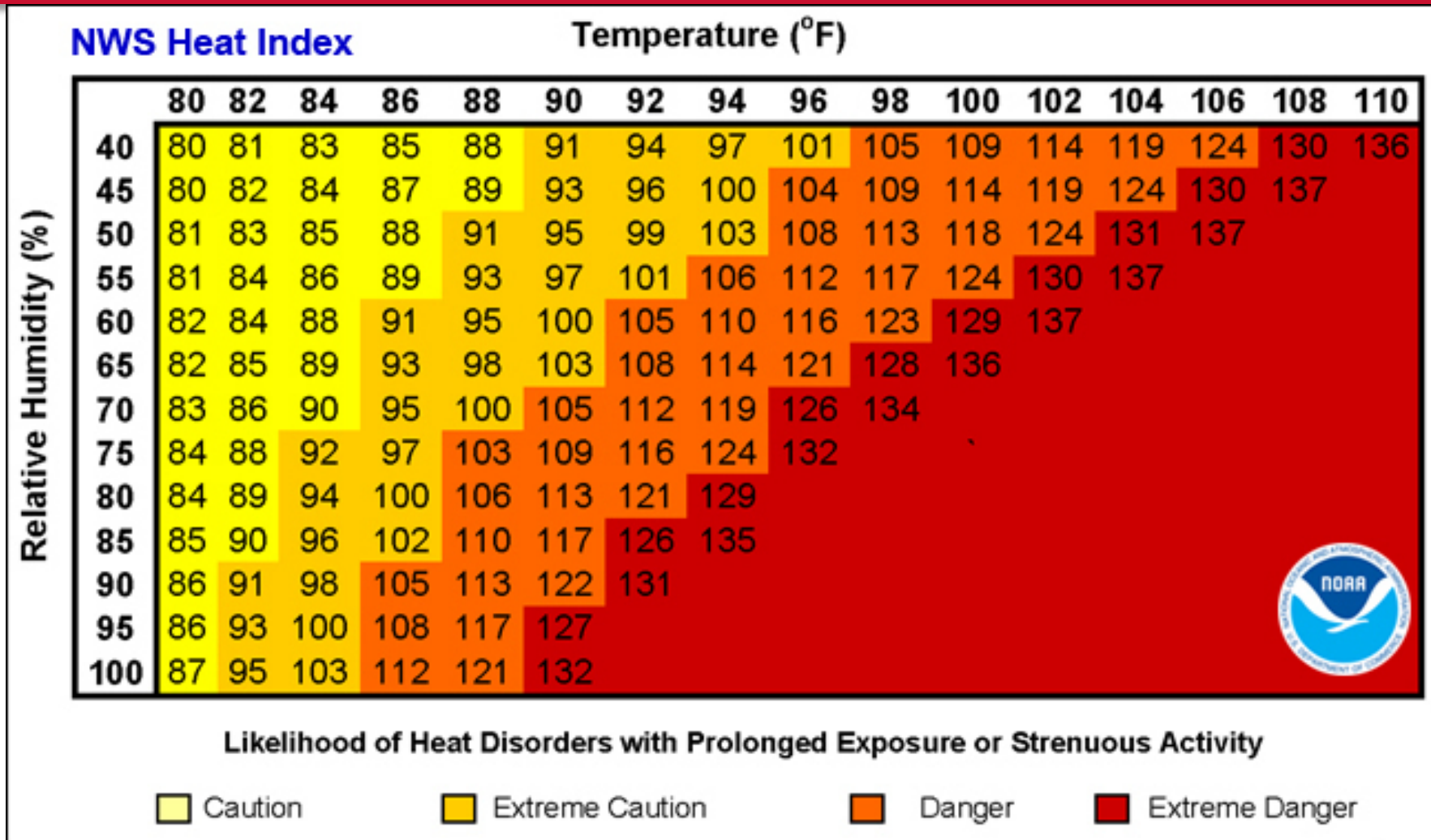
M=Metabolic Energy Rate

R=Radiant Heat Storage Rate

C=Convective Heat

E=Evaporative Heat

# 1. NOAA Heat Index (HI)



# Literature references



https://scholar.google.com/scholar?q=Steadman+R+G+1979+The+assessment+of+sultriness.+Part+I%3A+a+te

Capture Reference

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**The assessment of sultriness. Part I: A temperature-humidity index based on human physiology and clothing science**

[\[PDF\] ametsoc.org](#)

**RG Steadman - Journal of Applied Meteorology and ...**, 1979 - journals.ametsoc.org

Using as bases the amount of clothing needed to achieve thermal comfort and the reduction in the skin's resistance needed to obtain thermal equilibrium, the relative sultriness of warm-humid and hot-arid summer climates is assessed. Conditions of equal sultriness are referred to a vapor pressure of 1.6 kPa in order to prepare a table of apparent temperature corresponding to summer temperatures and humidities.

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**The assessment of sultriness. Part II: effects of wind, extra radiation and barometric pressure on apparent temperature**

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**RG Steadman - Journal of Applied Meteorology (1962-1982), 1979 - JSTOR**

A scale is derived in which any likely combination of summer temperature, humidity, wind and extra radiation can be expressed as apparent temperature. The effect of extra radiation (direct and indirect insolation; terrestrial and sky radiation) is considerable. The effect of wind is relatively slight in summer. The total direct effect of altitude (barometric pressure) is negligible. These results are compared with the use of globe thermometers and linear formulas. Maps show wind and extra-radiation effects which combine with ambient ...

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LETTER • OPEN ACCESS

# Chronically underestimated: a reassessment of US heat waves using the extended heat index

David M Romps<sup>4,1,2</sup>  and Yi-Chuan Lu<sup>2,3</sup>

Published 29 August 2022 • © 2022 The Author(s). Published by IOP Publishing Ltd

[Environmental Research Letters](#), [Volume 17](#), [Number 9](#)

**Citation** David M Romps and Yi-Chuan Lu 2022 *Environ. Res. Lett.* **17** 094017

DOI 10.1088/1748-9326/ac8945



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# Error in NWS HI



		Temperature (°F)															
		80	82	84	86	88	90	92	94	96	98	100	102	104	106	108	110
Relative humidity (%)	40	1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	0	0	0	0	-1	-10	-13	-12
	45	0	0	-1	0	-1	0	-1	0	0	0	0	-1	-15	-15	-14	
	50	1	0	-1	0	-1	0	0	0	1	0	-5	-16	-15	-15		
	55	0	0	-1	-1	0	0	0	0	1	-8	-17	-17	-16			
	60	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	-8	-18	-18	-16				
	65	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	-8	-19	-19	-17					
	70	0	0	0	1	1	0	-6	-20	-20	-19						
	75	0	1	1	1	2	-3	-22	-21	-19							
	80	-1	1	1	2	1	-18	-22	-21								
	85	-1	0	1	1	-13	-24	-22	-20								
	90	-1	0	1	-9	-26	-24	-22									
Relative humidity (%)	95	-2	0	-4	-23	-26	-23										
	100	-2	0	-16	-28	-27	-23										

Error in the NWS  
Heat Index Chart

# “Extended Heat Index”



		Temperature (°F)															
		80	82	84	86	88	90	92	94	96	98	100	102	104	106	108	110
Relative humidity (%)	40	79	82	84	86	89	92	95	98	101	105	109	114	120	134	143	148
	45	80	82	85	87	90	93	97	100	104	109	114	120	139	145	151	
	50	80	83	86	88	92	95	99	103	107	113	123	140	146	152		
	55	81	84	87	90	93	97	101	106	111	125	141	147	153			
	60	82	84	88	91	95	99	104	110	124	141	147	153				
	65	82	85	89	92	97	102	107	122	140	147	153					
	70	83	86	90	94	99	105	118	139	146	153						
	75	84	87	91	96	101	112	138	145	151							
	80	85	88	93	98	105	131	143	150								
	85	86	90	95	101	123	141	148	155								
	90	87	91	97	114	139	146	153									
	95	88	93	104	131	143	150										
	100	89	95	119	140	148	155										

Corrected NWS  
Heat Index Chart