

U.S. Department of Labor

Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Wichita Area Office
100 N. Broadway, Suite 470
Wichita, Kansas 67202-2224
(316) 269-6644 or Kansas Only Toll Free 1-800-362-2896



Reply to the attention of: Judy A. Freeman

April 26, 2016

Mr. Bob Snow
Exide Technologies
413 E. Berg Rd.
Salina, Ks 67401

Dear Mr. Snow:

An inspection of your workplace and evaluation of working conditions disclosed the following workplace conditions which could be associated with the development of heat-related illnesses in workers.

Our investigation determined that although employees were provided drinking water and were allowed to take breaks as needed in shaded or air conditioned areas, the employees had not been adequately trained to recognize the signs, symptoms, and effects of heat related illness. Adequate training is of critical importance in alerting employees to the symptoms of heat stress, and making them aware of the measures they can take to protect themselves. It was also determined that a period of acclimatization was not considered for newly hired employees. Employees who are not accustomed to working in extreme heat conditions can be high risk candidates to heat related illness.

In the interest of workplace safety and health, I recommend you voluntarily take steps to reduce or eliminate your workers exposure to the hazards associated with working in a hot environment.

The following are recommended elements of a comprehensive heat illness prevention program:

1. Acclimatize employees beginning work in hot environments or those returning from absent periods of three or more days.
2. Implement a work/rest regimen that includes a provision to allow employees to become acclimatized to extreme heat conditions.
3. Reschedule work during the cooler periods of the day (e.g., early morning and/or in the evenings) if possible.
4. Provide cool water and encouraging employees to drink 5 to 7 ounces of fluid every 15 to 20 minutes - rather than relying on thirst.
5. Provide shade or an air conditioned area for frequent breaks.
6. Provide a training program for all employees, including temporary employees, contractors, and part-time employees, regarding the health effects associated with heat stress, symptoms of heat induced illness, and methods of preventing such illnesses.
7. Establish a screening program to identify health conditions aggravated by exposure to heat stress.
8. Evaluate all heat related illnesses and injuries according to OSHA guidance provided in 1904.5 to determine work relatedness and record into the OSHA logs

Further information on preventing heat related illness can be found at www.osha.gov/heat.

I am sure that your company shares our goal of reducing or eliminating exposures to heat illness in your workplace. In order to accomplish this goal, closely monitor your heat illness prevention program and implement necessary measures. You may voluntarily provide the Wichita Area Office with progress reports on your efforts to address these conditions. OSHA may return to your worksites for further examination of the conditions noted above. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy A. Freeman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Judy A. Freeman
Area Director