

KEYSTONE SWANA

www.keystoneswana.org

Heat Stress

For the last week of April SWANA hosted a week of stand downs for *Heat Stress Awareness*. Heat stress can be a serious hazard as the daily temperature increases over the summer throughout the state. Elevated temperatures and the strain of work can lead to serious health emergencies and even death. The key points of the week long Stand Down were:

- Acclimatization – Gradually adjusting your bodies tolerance to heat and humidity
- Heat Illnesses – Heat Stroke, Heat Exhaustion, early signs of illness include changes in pulse, heavy sweating, nausea, and dizziness to name a few
- Water, Rest, Shade Routines – Effective work and break planning activities to prevent heat illness
- Emergency Responses – Always have an emergency plan, call 911 for Heat Exhaustion and Heat Stroke, seek medical advice for all other heat related illnesses

Heat illness is always preventable. OSHA is focusing its efforts on preventing heat illness and organizations that allow heat related incidents to occur are being cited. Always make sure you provide employees with adequate protection from extreme heat and sunlight, access to water, and break periods to cool off. Many temporary labor positions are disproportionately exposed to unsafe heat conditions leading to incidents.

Incident Report:

On February 7th the Greentree Landfill in Kersey, Elk County suffered a landslide which lead to a single fatality as reported by several news sources. The incident is under investigation at this time. OSHA has initiated an inspection and details on potential citations and corrective actions are pending. There is no official word yet on the cause. We will report any corrective actions or best practice recommendations when these become available.

Fall Protection

Falls are one of the leading causes of work place fatalities; all occupational falls are preventable. OSHA conducts a national stand down each year to address falls. In addition to the stand down, OSHA investigates the majority of falls that result in hospitalization or fatalities. There are no exemptions for inspections or citations related to occupational falls. OSHA Recommends the following questions be asked of your work force in order to prevent falls:

1. Where do fall hazards exist?
2. How can these hazards be eliminated or the severity mitigated, PPE, railings, etc.?
3. What steps need to be taken to address work site fall protection and prevention?

Consider hosting your own fall prevention safety stand downs.

Keystone Chapter SWANA Safety Summit

- Industry Safety Update – Presenter TBD
- OSHA & the Waste Industry – Jeff Haffner, OSHA
- Frontline Safety Management – Matt Taylor, Amerisafe Consulting & Safety Services
- Radiation Safety & Equipment Considerations for Landfills – Bonnie Meilner, LAURUS Systems
- Lone Worker Safety Monitoring – John Aliveto, Montauk Energy
- Hauling Safety – Marc Buckley, Republic Services
- Spotter Training & Traffic Controls at the Working Face – Steve Burns, SECCRA
- Personal Landfill Gas Protection – Scott Messier, SCS Engineers

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