

HSE SAFETY

CORNERSTONES

AUGUST 2018

Temperature Tips: Keeping Workers Cool

As temperatures stay on the rise this summer and the Met Office issues heat warnings, it is important to keep the health and safety of your workers in mind. Although there isn't a concrete law for the maximum working temperature, you are responsible for providing your workers with thermal comfort, as well as clean and fresh air. Whether your employees work in an office or outdoors, be aware of four temperature-related factors that you control that can cause worker discomfort:

1. **Air temperature**—This is the temperature of the air surrounding the body.
2. **Radiant temperature**—This is the heat that radiates from a warm object or heat source in an environment, such as the sun, a fire or hot machinery.
3. **Air velocity**—This relates to the speed of air moving across a worker, which can cool them down if the air temperature is lower than the environment.
4. **Humidity**—When water is heated and evaporates to the surrounding environment, the leftover water in the air generates humidity. High humidity environments can occur when there is a large amount of vapour in the air, preventing the evaporation of sweat from the skin (a method of heat reduction).

Keep your workers safe in high temperatures by providing necessary resources and accommodations to stay cool. Some examples include:

- Implementing fans within office settings to offer proper air velocity and providing water on-site to avoid worker dehydration or heat stress
- Allowing workers who must wear non-breathable, vapour-impermeable personal protective equipment or frequently use radiant heat sources to take periodic breaks and replenish their fresh air supply

Finding Trends in 2018 Fatality Figures

The HSE's recent annual workplace fatality figures report revealed that 144 workers suffered fatal injuries between April 2017 and March 2018—an additional nine deaths compared to the previous year. The report identified the following trends:

- The top three causes of fatal injuries include workers falling from height, being struck by a moving vehicle and being struck by a moving object. These causes accounted for 60 per cent of all fatal injuries in the 2017-18 year.
- The agricultural sector continues to possess the highest rate of fatal injury among the main industry sectors, totalling 18 times as high as the all industry rate. This sector suffered 29 fatal injuries in the 2017-18 year.
- Mesothelioma, a form of cancer that takes years to develop following asbestos fibre inhalation, has become a prevalent problem in Britain as a result of widespread industrial use of asbestos from 1950-1980. This form of cancer is expected to cause 2,500 deaths per year for the remainder of the decade.

The rise in workplace fatality highlights the importance of prioritising worker health and safety. For additional guidance, contact **Crendon Insurance Brokers Ltd** today.

HSE News and Prosecutions

Director Jailed After Explosion Deaths

The owner and director of Clearview Design and Construction Limited was sentenced to an eight-month custodial sentence and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £170 after he plead guilty to a health and safety breach that killed two brothers. The brothers were hired as labourers to refurbish units in an industrial park. While working inside a unit, both brothers suffered severe burns after an explosive fire began. Further investigation revealed that the director had supplied the brothers with highly flammable 'thinners' on the job site and had given no serious consideration to the safe use of the thinners. If your employees work with highly flammable liquids, click [here](#) for information regarding best practices.

Company Fined After Fume Incident

A speciality gas company has been fined £160,000 and ordered to pay costs of £22,611.60 after an incident in which an employee was overcome by vapour. While the worker was disposing of redundant gas bottles, 50 millilitres of highly hazardous liquid leaked from the bottle and created vapour, causing the worker to collapse. An investigation revealed the workers were not properly informed on how to handle the hazardous contents within the bottles.

Textile Company Fined Following Employee Death From Crush Injury

W.E. Rawson Limited received a £600,000 fine and was ordered to pay costs of £20,165.09 after a worker died from crush injuries. The worker leaned into a packaging machine in an attempt to free a stuck package, but became trapped in the moving conveyer. An investigation found the company lacked a safe system of work for the removal of packages from the machine.

Provided by:

Crendon Insurance Brokers Ltd

0121 45 45 100

www.crendoninsurance.co.uk

enquiries@crendoninsurance.co.uk



**Crendon
Insurance
Brokers**