



Chubb Construction
CSI Country Wide Case Study Safety Strategy Discussion
Construction
Safety
Investigator

Instructions: The objective of this tool is to provide field supervisors with information to proactively engage workers and discuss safety related concerns that they may encounter. Safety discussions should not be limited to the subject above and should pertain to the activities that workers will be involved in that may have the potential for safety related exposures.

Case Day:	October 29; 1993	Accident Type:	Occupational Health Accident-Heat Stroke
Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:	29 CFR 1926.21(b)(2), 1926.51(a)(1) to (6), OSHA Emergency Preparedness and Response - Heat Stress		

Case:	A 31 year-old concrete construction laborer died of heat stroke near the end of a hot summer work day.,
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**Accident
Detail:**

On the day of the incident, the temperature was 88 degrees Fahrenheit, about six degrees higher than average. Drinking water was available on the job site for crew members throughout the day and the victim was observed drinking water on several occasions. Crew members took breaks as time permitted.

The victim had been pouring concrete sidewalks and curbs along a city roadway for about nine hours. After the victim complained of not feeling well, the crew foreman instructed him to lay in the shade of a nearby tree. He rested in the shade for approximately 10 minutes.

When he got up to return to work, he stated he felt alright but then began staggering, became incoherent, and was obviously unaware of his actions. Ice was applied to the victim's neck. His condition deteriorated rapidly, progressing to unconsciousness after ambulance personnel arrived. He was transported to a hospital, where he died about an hour later.

**Reconstructive
Safety
Evaluation:**

- What are some of the possible causes of the accident being discussed?
- What actions could have been taken that might have prevented this accident from occurring?

**Accident
Scene
Conclusion:**

- Investigation indicated that the victim involved in this incident may not have been fully acclimatized to performing heavy work in hot temperatures.

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**Preventive
Safety
Measures
Include:**

- Employers should train supervisors and employees to recognize symptoms of heat exhaustion/stroke when working in high heat index and/or humid conditions.
- Workers should be acclimatized to working in hot environmental conditions, especially when it is necessary for them to perform heavy physical labor.
- To avoid dehydration and heat stress/stroke, employees should be given frequent breaks and be provided drinking water and other hydrating drinks when working in humid and hot conditions.
- Work hours should be adjusted to accommodate environmental work conditions such as high heat index and/or high humidity. For example, instead of working in the heat of the day, work hours could be changed from 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., or at a time when heat and humidity exist at a lower level.
- Reduce physical demands by reducing excessive lifting, climbing, or digging with heavy objects, spread the work over more individuals, use relief workers or assign extra workers.

**Attendance
Roster:**

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