Tucson Asphalt Policy

AGENDA MATERIAL 5-21-2024
DATE 5/21/24 ITEM NO. RA 21

To: Spencer Scot
From: Ramon Saenz
Tucson Asphalt

Heat Emphasis Policy for Tucson Asphalt

1. Introduction This Heat Emphasis Policy is designed to ensure the safety and well-being of asphalt construction workers exposed to high temperatures and heat stress during work activities. The policy outlines guidelines and procedures to mitigate the risks associated with heat-related illnesses and promote a healthy work environment.

2. Heat Stress Management

2.1 Heat Stress Training: All asphalt construction workers must receive comprehensive training on heat stress management, including recognizing the signs and symptoms of heat-related illnesses, proper hydration techniques, and the importance of rest breaks.

2.2 Heat Stress Monitoring: Weather conditions and heat indices should be regularly monitored to assess potential risks. Construction sites should have on-site temperature monitoring devices and a system to alert workers when conditions exceed safe thresholds.

2.3 Work Scheduling: Work schedules should be adjusted to minimize exposure to extreme heat whenever possible. Start times may be shifted to cooler hours of the day, and longer breaks may be implemented during peak heat periods. Last load times; when temps over 101 degrees-230 PM when over 108 degrees- 130 PM. Mandatory 10-minute breaks every hour to an hour and a half, depending on the workload and temperature. (When 101 degrees every hour and a half; when 108 degrees every hour)

2.4 Acclimatization: New or returning workers should be gradually acclimatized to working in hot conditions. The duration and intensity of work should be increased gradually over the first few days, allowing workers' bodies to adjust.

3. Hydration and Nutrition

3.1 Access to Water: Sufficient amounts of cool, potable water must be readily available at all work areas. Water stations or coolers should be strategically placed, and workers should be encouraged to drink water frequently.

3.2 Electrolyte Replacement: Workers should be educated about the importance of electrolyte replacement to maintain a proper fluid balance. Electrolyte-rich beverages or supplements may be provided, with consideration for the specific needs of workers.

3.3 Nutrition Education: Workers should be informed about the significance of proper nutrition, including consuming balanced meals and avoiding heavy or greasy foods that can hinder heat tolerance.

4. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Clothing

4.1 Breathable Clothing: Workers should be provided with lightweight, loose-fitting, and breathable clothing suitable for hot weather conditions. Clothing options should be made available to accommodate cultural or religious preferences.

4.2 Sun Protection: Adequate sun protection, such as wide-brimmed hats and sunscreen, should be provided to minimize the risk of sunburn and heat-related skin damage.

4.3 PPE Evaluation: Regular assessments of the necessity and feasibility of using personal protective equipment (PPE) should be conducted in hot weather conditions. Whenever possible, alternative measures should be explored to reduce heat stress while maintaining necessary safety measures.

5. Communication and Supervision

5.1 Heat Alerts and Communication: Clear communication channels should be established to relay heat alerts, updates, and relevant information to workers. Regular reminders and advisories should be provided through toolbox talks, signage, and safety meetings.

5.2 Supervisory Responsibility: Supervisors and team leaders should be trained to recognize early signs of heat-related illnesses and respond promptly. They should encourage workers to take breaks, rest in shaded areas, and report any symptoms or concerns.

5.3 Reporting and Record Keeping: Incidents, near misses, and worker concerns related to heat stress should be reported and recorded to evaluate and continuously improve the heat emphasis program.

6. Emergency Response

6.1 Heat-Related Illness Protocol: A detailed protocol should be in place to respond to heat-related emergencies promptly. This includes immediate access to first aid supplies, shaded rest areas, and a clear procedure for seeking medical attention if needed.

6.2 Emergency Contacts: A list of emergency contacts, including local medical facilities, ambulance services, and supervisors, should be readily available and communicated to all workers.

7. Program Evaluation and Improvement Regular evaluations of the heat emphasis program should be conducted to assess its