



It's Getting Hot in Here: Summer Heat Safety for Small Businesses

Are small businesses really ready to tackle the challenges posed by extreme heat?

Last summer was Earth's hottest since global records began in 1880, and forecasters are predicting that this extreme weather will continue this summer. Small businesses should consider making a plan or evaluating existing plans for how to protect their employees during the hotter summer months.

This checklist helps small business owners to better protect their employees and ensure a safer, more productive summer season.



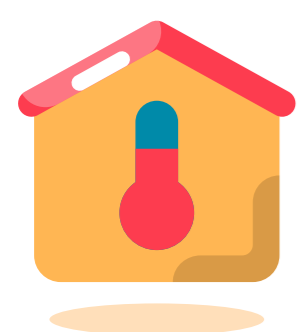
1. Develop a Heat Illness Prevention Plan

- Outline procedures for acclimatizing workers.
- Establish emergency response protocols.
- Assign roles and responsibilities for heat safety.



2. Employee Training

- Educate employees on the signs and symptoms of heat-related illnesses.
- Train workers on proper hydration practices and the importance of taking breaks.
- Ensure workers know how to use protective clothing and equipment.



3. Worksite Assessment

- Identify areas with high heat risk.
- Plan for shaded or cooled break areas.
- Schedule high-heat tasks for cooler parts of the day.



4. Monitor Weather Conditions

- Check daily weather forecasts.
- Use heat index charts to assess risk levels.
- Adjust work schedules based on heat advisories and warnings.



5. Hydration Stations

- Provide accessible water stations with cool water.
- Encourage employees to drink water every 15-20 minutes.
- Offer electrolyte-replenishing beverages if necessary.



6. Rest Breaks

- Schedule regular breaks in shaded or air-conditioned areas.
- Implement more frequent breaks as temperatures rise.
- Rotate tasks to reduce heat exposure time for each worker.



7. Clothing and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Provide light-colored, breathable clothing.
- Supply wide-brimmed hats or neck shades for outdoor workers.
- Ensure availability of cooling vests or bandanas.



Additional Notes
