



Safety Alert

Summer Safety



Let's make this work for everyone®

With summer quickly approaching, it's a good time to get reacquainted with your company's safety processes and procedures.

What makes summer unique and challenging from a safety perspective?

- There are plant shutdowns, special maintenance projects, and a **higher frequency of non-routine tasks** that occur during the summer months.
- Additional **heat and humidity** subjects equipment to greater stresses, causing it to run hotter and breakdown/jam-up faster. This can frustrate employees which increases the potential for employees to take shortcuts and not follow proper lockout procedures to repair or unjam the equipment.
- Fatigue levels increase from heat and humidity especially when working in physically demanding jobs such as manufacturing and construction. This can lead to a **decrease in cognitive functions and reaction times**. It can also lead to more ergonomic related injuries.
- Increased **vacation schedules** may mean that employees are working jobs that they are not familiar with, increased overtime, and supervisors spending more time physically working and less time managing employees.
- Employee **turnover rates** increase during the summer months.
- Seasonal operations that see a spike during the summer months will need to increase employment.

Why is this important?

- The potential for catastrophic accidents increases in the summer.
Example: A manufacturing plant shut down for a special facility clean-up project and an employee was severely injured when he fell 20 feet to the ground while cleaning the top of a machine.
Example: A company involved with a special maintenance project drained hot chemicals/salt from a tank into a 55 gallon metal drum when the drum ruptured causing the hot material to gush out and significantly burn four employees working in the area.
- 30% of the severe accidents that occurred last summer to Strategic Comp customers were from lockout/tagout violations. These violations resulted in fractures, amputations, and fatalities.



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- Even if you are in an industry that is not typically considered “high hazard,” the summer season can bring about unexpected non-routine tasks/ situations that can lead to increased injury exposure. Healthcare, retail, warehousing, etc. would fall into this category.
- Heat stress and heat stroke cause hospitalizations and fatalities every year.

What can my company do?

- Starting in April, get the management team together and discuss how the upcoming summer will impact your operations. Develop a summer pre-plan to make sure that your company is prepared to handle the challenges that summer will present.
- Hold supervisors accountable for exposures and controls. They are in direct contact with employees and can have the biggest impact. Keep them informed and involved.
- Get your supervisors together prior to the beginning of summer to help prepare them to handle the challenges that summer will present.
- Ensure your supervisors are engaged in proactive safety activities (such as training, inspections, and observations) throughout the summer to keep the safety culture strong.
- Develop a special summer short-term incentive program to motivate and reward employees to work safely during the summer months.
- Pre-plan all special maintenance projects and non-routine tasks to make sure there is a safety plan developed to protect employees from being injured.

Strategic Comp is here to help!

- Contact your Strategic Comp Loss Prevention Consultant or Regional Manager if you would like assistance in developing a summer safety plan or help with pre-planning non routine tasks.
- Frequent Safety Alerts will be distributed to our customers before and during the summer months to keep awareness levels elevated.



Safety is a choice to develop habits that will protect you at work or at home. Develop safe habits so your summer is remembered for being fun in the sun!

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