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# Safety Solutions

## The Safety Role of the Front Line Supervisor

By Eric Tofte, Director of Training ESC

Over the years we have heard the question “who is responsible for safety” many times. Of course there are the normal answers such as “you,” or “the company,” or the all-encompassing “everyone.” Now how about this one: “my supervisor is responsible for safety.”

In my years of working in the safety field, I have learned that safety is not separate from production—it is part of production. So the statement about supervisors being responsible for safety is very true. If supervisors are responsible for production, that means they have a responsibility for safety as well so that production does not suffer. Just look at what happen in 1999 at the Milwaukee Brewers stadium build when they had a crane collapse; it shut the project down for six months. Talk about a slowdown in production.

Yes, I know that actually everyone has a responsibility for safety. Yet employees can often be so focused on their job they get “tunnel vision” and do not see the hazards. So it is up to the front line supervisor to assist their employees in doing their jobs safely.

As a supervisor you need to stop and take a look to see what your employees are doing, and if they are doing it safely and correctly. Look at a few simple things, such as:

- Where are they standing? Are they standing out of harm’s way?
- Do they appear to have their mind on the task or are they “spacing” out?
- Do they appear to be frustrated or in a good mood?
- Are they rushed/hurried or are they taking time to do the job correctly?
- Are they wearing PPE like they are supposed to?

If everything looks good you need to tell them. Tell them they are doing a good job and doing things safely.

Of course if you see things that are incorrect or unsafe, you need to correct those issues on the spot. The best techniques are those that let the employee know that the supervisor is correcting his/her actions because of caring that the employee goes home at night healthy and uninjured. Here again we have found the one-on-one method (with no embarrassment or belittling) to be the most productive.

As a supervisor you must also understand, and stay on top of, the safety rules of both your company and OSHA (or State OSHA). Monitor their websites for updates and online learning opportunities, and know that we are here as a resource for training and consulting.

As a supervisor you should be aware that your employees are looking to you for leadership, and you need to be prepared. Understand the rules and regulations and most importantly communicate with your employees to ensure a safe and productive team.





**Did You Know for Heat Related Illness** the Washington Outdoor Heat Exposure Rule has outdoor temperature action levels starting as low as 52 degrees? Working in full sunlight can increase heat index values by 15 degrees Fahrenheit.

### OSHA's

## Outdoor Temperature Action Levels

For the Outdoor Heat Exposure Rule

Nonbreathing clothes including vapor barrier clothing or PPE such as chemical resistant suits	52°
Double-layer woven clothes including coveralls, jackets and sweatshirts	77°
All other clothing	89°

For people working outdoors in hot weather, both air temperature and humidity affect how hot they feel. OSHA has developed a heat index as a guide for employers to help protect their employees. The "heat index" is a single value that takes both temperature and humidity into account. The higher the heat index, the hotter the weather feels. The heat index is a better measure than air temperature alone for estimating the risk to workers from environmental heat sources.

Learn more about the heat index and the OSHA campaign at [www.osha.gov/SLTC/heatillness/heat\\_index](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/heatillness/heat_index) or download their free Heat Safety Tool App on your smartphone.



## The Outdoor Heat Exposure Rule

*By Eric Tofte, Director of Training ESC*

Working outdoors in hot weather can result in serious illness or even death. Workers exposed to extreme heat may experience symptoms of heat-related illnesses (HRI), such as heat cramps, heat rash, heat exhaustion, fainting, heat stroke and other symptoms.

HRI ranges from relatively harmless conditions such as heat edema (swelling) and heat cramps to more serious illness such as heat syncope (fainting) and heat exhaustion. The most serious and often fatal form of HRI is heat stroke.

HRI is also linked to injuries from falls, equipment operation accidents, and other on-the-job incidents. Such incidents can happen when someone with heat stress becomes fatigued, dizzy, confused, or disoriented.

In Washington State employers must provide training to workers so they understand what heat stress is, how it affects their health and safety, and how it can be prevented. The Outdoor Heat Exposure Rule WAC 296-62-095 applies from May 1 through September 30, every year, when exposures are at or above a specific temperature. In Washington DOSH looks at the temperature and the type of clothing the worker is wearing to determine if compliance with the rule has been put into effect.

If you have workers that are working in the outdoors you need to be aware of this situation to ensure your workers are safe. Evergreen Safety Council can help you provide the training and/or develop your heat illness prevention program.

### Save the Dates!

#### Washington Governor's Industrial Safety & Health Conference

**Date:** October 7 -8

**Location:** Tacoma Convention Center, Tacoma WA

**Website:** <http://www.wagovconf.org/>

The 64th Annual Governor's Industrial Safety and Health Conference offers two full days of training and education, providing the latest tools, technologies and strategies for workplace safety and health. As always, it is an exciting event with lots of opportunities to network with safety professionals and industry experts in the Exhibit Hall.

#### Pre-Conference Course:

**Topic:** OSHA 10 Construction (October 6)

**Co -Sponsored by UW and Evergreen Safety Council.**

#### Washington Traffic Safety Conference

**Date:** October 13 -15

**Location:** Double Tree by Hilton, SeaTac, WA

**Website:** <http://wtsc.wa.gov/2015tsc/>

Sponsored by the WA Traffic Safety Commission, the conference begins on Tuesday afternoon & over the next three days provides opportunities to network & learn from traffic safety professionals.

#### PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS BY EVERGREEN SAFETY COUNCIL

Tuesday Morning, Oct 13

Topics: **Moving Oversized Loads on Washington Highways**

WSDOT & Industry Representatives

**Keeping our Workers Safe in Highway Work Zones**

WA L&I, Industry & WSDOT Representatives

**Come early for these workshops and stay for the conference!**

# SAFETY STATISTICS

Every day, about ten people die from unintentional drowning. Of these, **20%** are children aged 14 or younger. Drowning ranks fifth among the leading causes of unintentional injury death in the United States. **Be water smart this summer.**

# 20%

## Water Safety

By Stephanie Dyck, Office Supervisor, ESC

According to the WA Department of Health, drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional injury death for children and teens ages 1 to 17 in our state. In 2013 there were 103 unintentional drowning deaths to Washington residents of all ages; 13 of these were of children younger than 18 years old. All of these are unintentional which means they are preventable. Know your surroundings and know how to swim.

Typically, hotels/motels do not provide lifeguards, so never leave children unattended. If you have a home pool or travel you should take a Water Safety Education class from the Red Cross so you know how to prevent drowning and what to do in case of an emergency. Anyone who does not know how to swim or is a weak swimmer should wear a US Coast Guard approved lifejacket, no matter how deep the water.

It only takes 1" of water to drown.

### General Water Safety Guidelines:

- Learn to swim
- Take a water safety class, learn first aid and CPR
- If boating in the State of WA – you must have a Boater Education Card
- ALWAYS supervise children on, in or around water
- Do not drink alcohol while swimming or boating
- Do not attempt a rescue unless you have specialized training and/or equipment
- Be aware of your surroundings and potential water hazards
- Pay attention to the weather and tide tables
- Know the temperature of the water to prevent hypothermia

Most boating accidents are caused by the operator, not by the boat or the water environment. Approximately 80% of boating fatalities in the US are due to drowning and most would have been prevented if the boater had been wearing a US Coast Guard approved lifejacket. Because of this, Washington State implemented a new law in 2008 requiring anyone 'operating a powered watercraft of 15hp or greater to take a safety education course and obtain a Boater Education Card to operate a boat in Washington'. For more information on this program you can go to [www.boat-ed.com](http://www.boat-ed.com). Before going on vacation or going to a local lake for a picnic, make sure everyone knows how to be safe in/near the water and pass the information on to other family and friends. Let's prevent drowning everywhere.

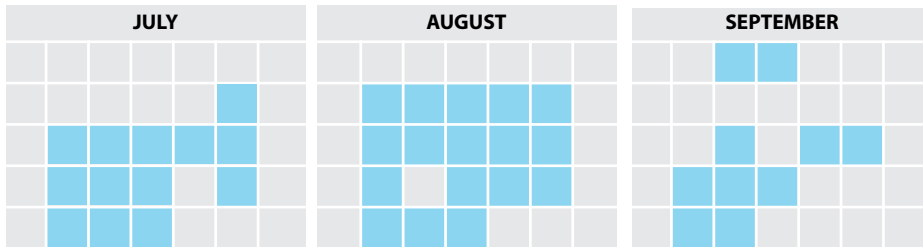




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Change Service Requested



**To REGISTER**  
**1-800-521-0778**  
**or [www.esc.org](http://www.esc.org)**

# Calendar of Events

**July**

- 10 Flagger Certification - Kirkland WA
- 13 COSS Safety Certification - Kirkland WA
- 20 Forklift Instructor Training - Renton WA
- 22 Forklift Operator Training - Renton WA
- 24 First Aid/CPR Certification Open Enrollment - Kirkland WA
- 27 Traffic Control Supervisor Certification Washington - Kirkland WA

**August**

- 11 EverSafe Driving Instructor Certification - Kirkland WA
- 13 Traffic Control Supervisor Certification Recertification - Kirkland WA
- 14 Flagger Certification - Kirkland WA
- 17 Traffic Control Supervisor Certification Oregon Recertification - Portland OR
- 18 Flagger Instructor Recertification - Kirkland WA
- 18 Traffic Control Supervisor Certification Oregon - Portland OR
- 21 Pilot/Escort Vehicle Operator (P/EVO) - Kirkland WA
- 24 Forklift Instructor Training - Renton WA
- 26 Forklift Operator Training - Renton WA
- 31 First Aid/CPR Certification Instructor Certification - Kirkland WA

**September**

- 15 Root Cause Analysis Level 1 - Kirkland WA
- 17 Root Cause Analysis Level 2 - Kirkland WA
- 18 Flagger Certification - Kirkland WA
- 21 Forklift Instructor Training - Renton WA
- 21 Traffic Control Supervisor Certification Washington - Kirkland WA
- 23 Forklift Operator Training - Renton WA
- 28 Flagger Instructor Certification - Kirkland WA