

Attachment C: Guidance on Provision of Water

Recommended Equipment:

- Water and drink containers, ice, cleaning equipment, whistle or horn

Supervisors must ensure;

- Drinking water containers (5 to 10 gallons each) are brought to the site, so that at least 2 quarts per employee are available at the start of the shift.
- Drink containers ensuring enough disposable cups are made available for each worker and are kept clean until used.
- The water level of all containers every 30-60 minutes and more frequently when the temperature exceeds 90°F. When the water level within a container drops below 50%, water containers will be refilled with cool water. Additional water containers (i.e. 5 gallon bottles) will be available to replace water as needed.
- When the temperature exceeds 90°F carry ice in separate containers, so that when necessary, it will be added to the drinking water to keep it cool.
- Check the work site and place the water as close as possible to the employees (i.e. no more than 50-100 feet from the workers). If field terrain prevents the water from being placed as close as possible to the workers, bottled water or individual containers (in addition to disposable cups and water containers), will be provided so that workers can have drinking water readily accessible.
- Water containers will be relocated to follow along as the work moves, so drinking water will be readily accessible.
- Encourage employees to frequently consume small quantities of water, up to 4 cups per hour, when the work environment is hot and employees are likely to be sweating more than usual in the performance of their duties.
- Provide clean water containers and keep in sanitary condition
- Advise employees of the daily location of the water coolers and remind them to drink water frequently. When the temperature exceeds or is expected to exceed 90°F, hold a brief 'tailgate' meeting each morning to review with employees the importance of drinking water, the number and schedule of water and rest breaks and the signs and symptoms of heat illness.
- Use audible devices (such as whistles or air horns) to remind employees to drink water.
- Increase the number of water breaks when the temperature equals or exceeds 95°F or during a heat wave remind workers throughout the work shift to drink water.
- Stress during employee training, the importance of frequent drinking of water.