

## U.S. Department of Labor announces enhanced, expanded heat measures

To combat the hazards associated with extreme heat exposure, both indoors and outdoors, the White House today announced that the U.S. Department of Labor is taking enhanced and expanded efforts to address heat-related illnesses.

The department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is initiating enhanced measures to protect workers better in hot environments and reduce the dangers of exposure to ambient heat.

While heat illness is largely preventable, thousands of workers are sickened each year by workplace heat exposure and 43 workers died from heat illness in 2019. Increasing heat precipitated by climate change can cause lost productivity and work hours, resulting in large wage losses for workers.

To emphasize its concern and take necessary action, OSHA is implementing an enforcement initiative on heat-related hazards, developing a national emphasis program on heat inspections, and launching a rulemaking process to develop a workplace heat standard. In addition, the agency is forming a National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and

Health Heat Injury and Illness Prevention Work Group to provide better understanding of challenges and to identify and share best practices to protect workers.

OSHA implemented an intervention and enforcement initiative recently to prevent and protect workers from heat-related illnesses and deaths while they are working in hazardous hot environments. The newly established initiative prioritizes heat-related interventions and inspections of work activities on days when the heat index exceeds 80°F.

The OSHA initiative applies to indoor and outdoor work sites in general industry, construction, agriculture, and maritime where potential heat-related hazards exist. On days when a recognized heat temperature can result in increased risks of heat-related illnesses, OSHA will increase enforcement efforts. Employers are encouraged to implement intervention methods on heat priority days proactively, including regularly taking breaks for water, rest, and shade; training workers on how to identify common symptoms and what to do when a worker suspects a heat-related illness is occurring; and taking periodic measurements to determine workers' heat exposure.

OSHA Area Directors across the nation will institute the following:

- prioritize inspections of heat-related complaints, referrals, and employer-reported illnesses and initiate an onsite investigation where possible

## JÖRG SCHLAICH

Jörg Schlaich, a key figure in the development of the strut-and-tie model, died September 4, 2021. He was 86.

Schlaich's industry-changing paper on strut-and-tie modeling, "Toward a Consistent Design of Structural Concrete," ran in the May-June 1987 issue of *PCI Journal* and has been cited more than 1400 times. "It really launched the adoption of STM provisions in the ACI code," says John Breen, a friend of Schlaich's and the Nasser I. Al-Rashid Chair Emeritus in Civil Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin.

When the paper was written, Schlaich was a professor at the Institute of Reinforced Concrete at the University of Stuttgart in Germany, and his coauthors were Kurt Schafer and Mattias Jenne-



Jörg Schlaich

wein. "Toward a Consistent Design of Structural Concrete" is available at <https://doi.org/10.15554/pci.05011987.74.150>.

In 1980, Schlaich cofounded the structural engineering and consulting firm Schlaich Bergermann Partner with Rudolf Bergermann and managed it until 2002.

In 1994, Schlaich was elected an International Member of the National Academy of Engineering "for leadership in structural engineering practice and advancement of economic, environmental, educational, and aesthetic aspects of civil engineering."

Fellow NAE member and consulting engineer David Goodyear says, "I considered Professor Schlaich as the most brilliant structural engineer of our time, not because of his academic prowess, but because of his intuitive understanding of structural engineering."

- instruct compliance safety and health officers, during their travels to job sites, to conduct an intervention (providing the agency's heat poster/wallet card, discuss the importance of easy access to cool water, cooling areas and acclimatization) or opening an inspection when they observe employees performing strenuous work in hot conditions
- expand the scope of other inspections to address heat-related hazards where work site conditions or other evidence indicates these hazards may be present

In October 2021, OSHA will take a significant step toward a federal heat standard to ensure protections in workplaces across the country by issuing an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on heat injury and illness prevention in outdoor

and indoor work settings. The advance notice will initiate a comment period allowing OSHA to gather diverse perspectives and technical expertise on topics including heat stress thresholds, heat acclimatization planning, exposure monitoring, and strategies to protect workers.

The agency is also working to establish a National Emphasis Program on heat hazard cases, which will target high-risk industries and focus agency resources and staff time on heat inspections. The 2022 National Emphasis Program will build on the existing Regional Emphasis Program for Heat Illnesses in OSHA's Region VI, which covers Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

—Source: OSHA

## INDUSTRY CALENDAR

Event details are subject to change.

<b>World of Concrete 2022</b> Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nev.	January 18–21, 2022
<b>ACI Spring 2022 Convention</b> Caribe Royale Orlando, Orlando, Fla.	March 27–31, 2022
<b>Post-Tensioning Institute 2022 Convention</b> Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines, La Jolla, Calif.	April 24–27, 2022
<b>2022 fib International Congress</b> Oslo, Norway	June 12–16, 2022
<b>ACI Fall 2022 Convention</b> Hyatt Regency Dallas, Dallas, Tex.	October 23–27, 2022
<b>ACI Spring 2023 Convention</b> Hilton San Francisco Union Square, San Francisco, Calif.	April 2–6, 2023
<b>BEI-2023 “Sustainability in Bridge Engineering”</b> National University of Singapore, Singapore	Summer 2023
<b>ACI Fall 2023 Convention</b> Boston Convention Center and Westin Boston Waterfront, Boston, Mass.	October 29–November 2, 2023
<b>ACI Spring 2024 Convention</b> Hyatt Regency New Orleans, New Orleans, La.	March 24–28, 2024

Compiled by K. Michelle Burgess (mburgess@pci.org)