The Threat After the Storm

Workers and volunteers involved in cleanup following a tornado need to be conscious of possible electrical hazards, carbon monoxide exposure, heat stress, falls and other risks. NIOSH offers guidance for planning and carrying out safe recovery work, including survey forms for documenting proper safety measures on-site.

NIOSH (Emergency Response Resources) - www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/emres/tornado.html

Fall Protection for Residential Construction Workers

Employers are now (since mid-June) required to provide residential construction workers with the conventional systems of fall protection described in OSHA's fall protection standard 1926.501. Alternate protection procedures that used to be allowed can still be used, but the burden is on the employer to justify them (and develop a written site-specific protection plan).

www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=10757#1926.501%28b%29%2813%29

Occupational Safety Awareness for Young Workers

OSHA is focusing on safety for young workers, whose inexperience and eagerness to please often puts them more at risk of job-related injury and illness than other workers. Information for young workers in construction, for example, covers appropriate jobs, hazards, tools/equipment, motor vehicle safety and other topics.

OSHA (Young Workers) - www.osha.gov/SLTC/teenworkers/

Heat Illness - Stay Alert

OSHA has mounted a national campaign to prevent heat illness in outdoor workers, with training materials for employers and fact sheets for workers in English and Spanish.


As part of the OSHA campaign, heat alerts from the National Weather Service now include worker safety precautions, for example (June 8-IL/ MO):

TO REDUCE RISK DURING OUTDOOR WORK...THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDS SCHEDULING FREQUENT REST BREAKS IN SHADEd OR AIR CONDITIONED ENVIRONMENTS. ANYONE OVERCOME BY HEAT SHOULD BE MOVED TO A COOL AND SHADEd LOCATION. HEAT STROKE IS AN EMERGENCY. CALL 9-1-1 IMMEDIATELY.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Heat Advisories Currently in Effect) - www.noaawatch.gov/themes/heat.php

Online Advisor to the Rescue

Are you (an employer) wondering if an employee’s injury or illness must be recorded under OSHA regulations? This interactive website will ask you a series of questions to help you determine the agency’s recordkeeping requirements for your situation.

OSHA Recordkeeping Advisor - www.dol.gov/elaws/osharecordkeeping.htm