



# Wichita ASSP Chapter Spring/Summer 2026 Safety Newsletter

Welcome to your comprehensive spring and summer safety resource, bringing you the latest regulatory updates, seasonal safety insights, and essential information to keep Kansas workplaces safe throughout May, June, July, and August.

# Welcome & Spring/Summer Safety Focus

As spring gives way to summer across Kansas, the Wichita ASSP Chapter is proud to bring you this Spring/Summer edition of our safety newsletter. May, June, July, and August present unique challenges that demand our attention and proactive approach to workplace safety. From rising temperatures and heat stress to severe weather and tornado season, these warmer months call for a renewed focus on protecting workers in every environment.

Our leadership team has curated essential information covering recent regulatory developments from OSHA and the EPA, alongside practical guidance for the seasonal hazards that emerge during this active time of year. We recognize that safety professionals like you are navigating increased risks from outdoor work, changing weather patterns, intense sun exposure, and the fast pace that often comes with longer days and more projects in motion. This newsletter serves as your comprehensive resource to address these challenges head-on.

We're particularly excited to explore some timely topics this season, including heat illness prevention, tornado preparedness, and outdoor worker safety. Throughout these pages, you'll also find a lighter side to safety with our comical safety corner — because humor can be a powerful tool in keeping safety top of mind. Thank you for your continued dedication to protecting Kansas workers and building a culture of safety excellence.



## Seasonal Awareness

Spring/summer unique safety challenges



## Regulatory Updates

Latest OSHA & EPA news



## Heat Safety

Protecting workers in Kansas heat

# OSHA Regulatory Updates: What's New This Spring

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has maintained an active enforcement and guidance schedule heading into spring and summer 2026, with several developments particularly relevant to Kansas industries. OSHA's current priorities reflect a continued emphasis on proactive compliance assistance, heat illness prevention, and seasonal hazards that affect both indoor and outdoor workers as activity increases across the region. Staying current with these updates is essential for protecting your workforce and maintaining strong compliance through the warmer months.

## Heat Illness Prevention Emphasis

OSHA's National Emphasis Program continues to spotlight heat-related illness prevention for workers exposed to extreme temperatures. Updated guidance reinforces the importance of providing water, rest, and shade; monitoring conditions throughout the day; and ensuring employers have clear acclimatization protocols for new and returning workers. These expectations are especially important for Kansas crews facing long hours in spring and summer heat, whether working outdoors or in hot indoor environments.

*[OSHA Heat Illness Prevention Guidance, Spring/Summer 2026](#)*

## Construction & Outdoor Worker Focus

OSHA has increased enforcement attention in construction during the peak spring and summer season, with particular focus on fall protection, struck-by hazards, and excavation safety. As construction activity ramps up across Wichita and Kansas, employers are encouraged to conduct refresher training, inspect worksites for emerging hazards, and verify that crews are using the right controls before projects accelerate.

*[OSHA Enforcement Data & Regional Inspection Reports, Spring 2026](#)*

## OSHA-ASSP Alliance Initiatives

The ongoing alliance between OSHA and ASSP continues to provide valuable resources for safety professionals. Recent collaborative efforts include webinar series on emerging workplace hazards, updated training materials available free to members, and new tools for small businesses, including simplified safety program templates and compliance checklists. Wichita chapter members are encouraged to leverage these resources through the national ASSP website to strengthen their safety efforts this season.

*[OSHA-ASSP Alliance Website & Recent Publications](#)*

Staying informed about regulatory changes isn't just about compliance — it's about using seasonal guidance and practical resources to strengthen safety programs before risks rise. The Wichita ASSP chapter encourages all members to review OSHA's latest spring and summer guidance documents and apply these updates to their heat illness prevention, construction safety, and general workplace protection efforts throughout the season.

# EPA News & Environmental Compliance for Spring/Summer



The Environmental Protection Agency has rolled out several important updates affecting industrial operations as we move through spring and summer 2026.

Understanding these changes is essential for maintaining compliance and supporting sustainable workplace practices throughout Kansas.

01

## Air Quality & Ozone Season

EPA's ozone season runs from May through September, when hot weather and sunlight make ground-level ozone form more readily. Facilities must pay close attention to VOC and NOx emissions during the summer months, follow updated monitoring requirements, and be ready to implement action day protocols that support cleaner air across Kansas.

[\*\(EPA Ozone Pollution Information\)\*](#)

03

## Sustainable Practice Incentives

The EPA's SmartWay and WasteWise programs continue to offer expanded benefits for participating organizations, including technical assistance and recognition opportunities. Energy efficiency improvements can be especially valuable during peak summer cooling demand, and Kansas facilities participating in these voluntary programs report both cost savings and enhanced community relations.

[\*\(EPA SmartWay Program; EPA WasteWise Program\)\*](#)

02

## Stormwater & Runoff Management

Spring rains and severe weather increase stormwater runoff risks for industrial sites. Facilities should stay current with NPDES permit requirements, strengthen spill prevention protocols, and take extra care with chemical storage areas during tornado season and other severe weather events that can quickly compromise containment and drainage systems.

[\*\(EPA NPDES Stormwater Program\)\*](#)

04

The EPA's spring and summer outreach initiatives include several no-cost resources available to Kansas businesses. Regional compliance assistance centers offer confidential consultations to help facilities understand how regulations apply to their specific operations. EPA has also launched webinars focused on preventing environmental incidents during seasonal transitions, giving organizations practical tools to strengthen environmental compliance alongside workplace safety efforts. The Wichita ASSP chapter encourages members to explore these resources and integrate environmental compliance into comprehensive safety management systems. As regulatory frameworks continue to evolve, staying informed protects both your organization and the communities we serve.

[\*\(EPA Compliance Assistance Resources\)\*](#)

# Heat Stress: Kansas Summer's Most Dangerous Hazard

Kansas summers are among the most demanding in the nation, with temperatures regularly exceeding 95°F and heat index values climbing well above 100°F. Heat-related illness is one of the most preventable — yet most deadly — occupational hazards facing outdoor and indoor workers during summer months. OSHA estimates that hundreds of workers die and thousands more suffer serious illness from heat exposure each year in the United States.

*(U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Injuries, Illnesses, and Fatalities)*

## 36+

### Annual Heat Deaths

Over 36 workers die annually from heat stroke and heat-related illness in U.S. workplaces, with many more cases going unreported.

*(BLS data)*

## 20%

### New Worker Risk

New workers are 20 times more likely to suffer heat illness in their first few days on the job before acclimatization occurs.

## 80%

### Preventable Cases

An estimated 80% of heat-related illnesses are preventable with proper hydration, rest breaks, and acclimatization programs.

The physiology of heat stress begins with the body's normal effort to regulate temperature through sweating and increased blood flow to the skin. When environmental heat, physical exertion, humidity, and direct sun overwhelm these defenses, the body can no longer cool itself effectively. Heat illness often progresses in stages: heat cramps, then heat exhaustion, and finally heat stroke, a life-threatening emergency. Kansas humidity makes the risk even greater because moisture in the air slows sweat evaporation, trapping heat in the body and accelerating dangerous temperature rise.

As body temperature climbs, alertness, coordination, and decision-making decline. Workers may become dizzy, weak, nauseated, or disoriented before collapsing. Indoors, poorly ventilated spaces, hot equipment, and confined work areas can create the same hazards found outdoors. Recognizing early warning signs and intervening quickly can prevent a minor heat illness from becoming a fatal emergency.

#### 1 Water, Rest, Shade

OSHA's core heat illness prevention framework: provide cool drinking water (1 cup every 20 minutes), mandatory rest breaks in shaded or air-conditioned areas, and shade structures for outdoor workers.

#### 3 Heat Index Monitoring

Use OSHA's Heat Safety Tool app to monitor real-time heat index. Establish action levels: caution (91-103°F), danger (103-115°F), extreme danger (above 115°F) with corresponding work/rest ratios.

#### 2 Acclimatization Programs

Gradually increase new workers' exposure to heat over 7-14 days. New employees and those returning from absence are at highest risk. Implement formal acclimatization schedules.

#### 4 Emergency Response Planning

Train all supervisors to recognize heat stroke (a medical emergency). Know the signs: hot/dry skin, confusion, loss of consciousness. Call 911 immediately and cool the worker rapidly while waiting for help.

Heat illness prevention is not optional — OSHA's General Duty Clause requires employers to protect workers from recognized heat hazards. The Wichita ASSP Chapter encourages all members to implement comprehensive heat illness prevention programs before summer temperatures peak.

*(OSHA Heat Illness Prevention / General Duty Clause)*

# Tornado & Severe Weather Preparedness: A Kansas Priority



Kansas is in the heart of Tornado Alley, and spring and summer bring peak severe weather season. With an average of 96 tornadoes per year, Kansas workplaces must have robust emergency action plans that address tornado warnings, severe thunderstorms, and flash flooding. OSHA requires employers to have emergency action plans — and for Kansas businesses, tornado preparedness is a critical component.

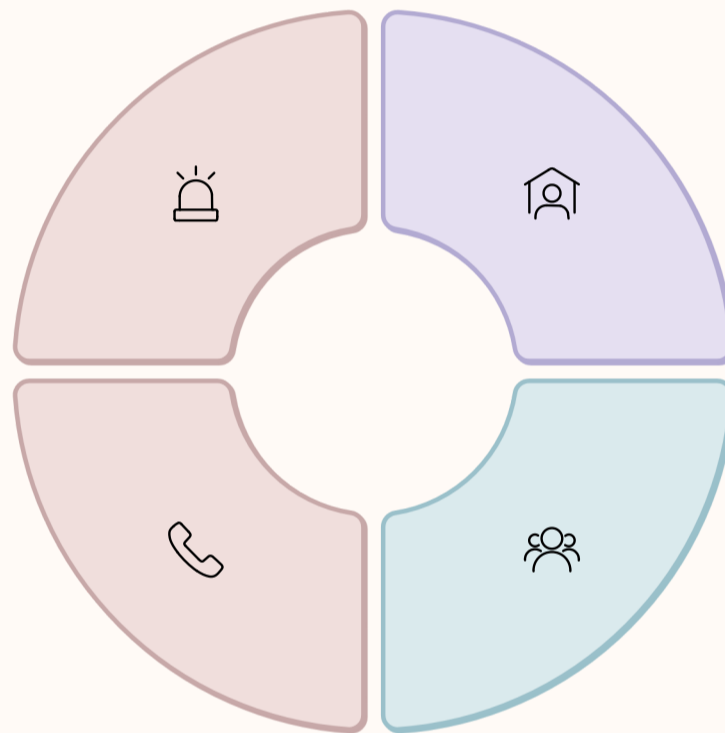
*(Kansas severe weather preparedness / OSHA emergency action plans)*

## Warning Systems

Know the difference between a tornado watch and a tornado warning. A watch means conditions are favorable; a warning means a tornado has been spotted or indicated by radar. Ensure all workers can hear warning sirens and have access to weather alerts. Consider weather alert radios and mass notification systems.

## Communication Plans

Establish how you will communicate with employees, customers, and family members during and after a severe weather event. Designate backup communication methods if power and cell service are disrupted.



## Designated Shelters

Identify interior rooms on the lowest floor away from windows. Avoid gymnasiums, auditoriums, and large open spaces. Conduct shelter-in-place drills at least annually. Post shelter locations prominently throughout the facility.

## Accountability Procedures

Know how many people are in your facility at all times. Designate shelter wardens to sweep areas and account for all personnel. Establish a headcount procedure and a reunification point for after the storm.

Outdoor workers face the greatest risk during severe weather, especially in construction, agriculture, and utilities. Establish clear protocols for suspending outdoor work when lightning is within 10 miles or tornado warnings are issued. If conditions deteriorate quickly, move workers to shelter immediately and stop equipment operations as needed.

*(Severe weather work suspension guidance / tornado safety best practices)*

1

### Pre-Season Planning

Review and update your Emergency Action Plan before May 1. Conduct a tornado drill with all shifts. Inspect shelter areas for obstructions and ensure they are stocked with first aid supplies and flashlights.

2

### During the Storm

Move to shelter immediately upon warning. Stay away from windows, doors, and exterior walls. Protect your head and neck. Do not attempt to outrun a tornado in a vehicle.

3

### Post-Storm Recovery

Do not re-enter damaged structures until cleared by authorities. Watch for downed power lines, gas leaks, and structural instability. Document damage for insurance and OSHA reporting purposes.

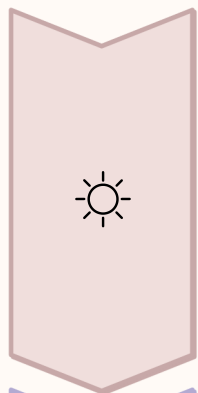
Preparedness saves lives. The Wichita ASSP Chapter encourages all members to review their emergency action plans and conduct drills before peak tornado season so teams are ready before severe weather strikes.

*(Wichita ASSP Chapter severe weather preparedness)*

# Outdoor Worker Safety: Managing Summer Hazards in Kansas

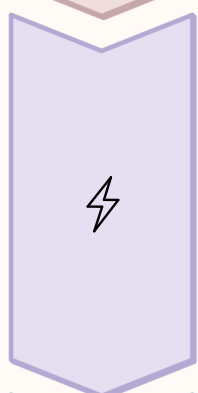
Summer in Kansas presents a unique combination of hazards for outdoor workers — intense UV radiation, extreme heat, severe weather, insects, and the physical demands of working in high temperatures. From construction crews to utility workers to agricultural employees, Kansas outdoor workers face elevated risks from May through September. A comprehensive outdoor safety program addresses all of these hazards systematically.

*(Kansas outdoor worker safety / summer hazard prevention)*



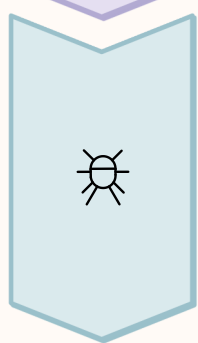
## UV Radiation & Sun Exposure

Kansas receives intense solar radiation during summer months. Prolonged UV exposure causes sunburn, accelerated skin aging, and significantly increases skin cancer risk. Employers should provide shade structures, encourage long-sleeved UV-protective clothing, and ensure sunscreen (SPF 30+) is available. Schedule the most demanding outdoor tasks for early morning or late afternoon when UV index is lower.



## Lightning & Electrical Hazards

The U.S. averages 20 million cloud-to-ground lightning strikes per year. Outdoor workers — especially those on elevated structures, operating heavy equipment, or working near water — are at elevated risk. Establish a lightning safety policy: suspend outdoor work when lightning is within 10 miles and wait 30 minutes after the last strike before resuming.



## Insects, Ticks & Vector-Borne Illness

Spring and summer bring increased exposure to ticks (Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever), mosquitoes (West Nile Virus), and stinging insects. Provide insect repellent, encourage long pants and sleeves in wooded areas, and train workers to perform tick checks after outdoor work.

## Best Practices for Summer Work Management

Preventing heat-related injuries starts with smart scheduling and active oversight. Plan the most demanding outdoor work outside peak heat hours whenever possible, especially between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Rotate workers through shaded rest areas so no one is exposed to sustained heat for too long, and set up cooling stations with misting fans, cool towels, or other recovery aids. Supervisors should monitor workers closely for signs of heat illness, including dizziness, confusion, excessive sweating, headache, nausea, and weakness. A buddy system is essential in extreme heat so no worker is ever left alone without another person watching for early warning signs.

*(Heat illness prevention / outdoor work scheduling guidance)*

Outdoor safety programs should also account for changing weather conditions, hydration needs, and task demands throughout the day. Build in extra time for breaks, provide easy access to shade, and empower crews to slow down when temperatures climb or humidity spikes. Heat stress can impair judgment quickly, so planning ahead is far more effective than reacting after someone becomes ill.

<b>1</b>	<b>Hydration Standards</b> Require workers to drink water before feeling thirsty; 1 cup every 20 minutes in heat
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<b>2</b>	<b>PPE for Heat</b> Cooling vests, moisture-wicking clothing, wide-brim hard hats, UV-protective eyewear
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<b>3</b>	<b>Work/Rest Ratios</b> Adjust based on heat index; OSHA's app provides real-time guidance
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### Recent Local Incident: Lessons Learned

A Wichita construction worker suffered heat stroke in July 2025 during a heat index of 108°F. Investigation revealed no formal acclimatization program, inadequate water supply, and supervisors untrained in heat illness recognition. The company has since implemented OSHA's recommended heat illness prevention program, including mandatory water/rest/shade protocols and supervisor training. This incident underscores that heat illness is predictable and preventable.

Outdoor worker safety in summer requires proactive planning, not reactive responses. The Wichita ASSP Chapter encourages all members to conduct summer hazard assessments and implement comprehensive outdoor safety programs before peak season arrives.

# Comical Safety Corner: Summer Safety with a Smile

Safety doesn't always have to be serious! As summer arrives, humor can be a powerful tool for making safety messages memorable and engaging. This month's Comical Safety Corner brings you spring and summer-themed cartoons and quotes that will make you smile while reinforcing important safety principles like heat illness prevention, sunscreen, outdoor work precautions, and tornado readiness. Remember, a workplace where people can laugh together about safety is often a workplace where safety is truly valued.

"I applied sunscreen SPF 50 to my arms but forgot my neck. Now I look like a safety cone — orange on top, normal below."

— Overheard at a Kansas job site

"Our heat illness prevention plan is simple: if you see a coworker melting into the pavement, give them some water."

— Safety manager who clearly needs a refresher

**Worker 1:** "Why did the construction worker bring an umbrella to the job site?"

**Worker 2:** "Because the forecast said there was a 100% chance of OSHA inspection!"

**Supervisor:** "Why are you sitting in the shade again?"

**Employee:** "I'm not slacking — I'm implementing the water-rest-shade protocol. OSHA said so!"

**Safety Pro:** "What do you call a Kansas safety professional in July?"

**Colleague:** "Sweaty, sunburned, and still compliant!"

*"Remember: The only thing that should be 'scorching' this summer is your safety record — not your skin."*

## Summer Wisdom

"Hydration is not optional. Your body is 60% water. Don't let it become 59%."

## Kansas Truth

"If you can fry an egg on the sidewalk, maybe reconsider outdoor work without a cooling plan."

## Tornado Season

"Kansas weather has two seasons: 'nice' and 'hold onto your hard hat.' Plan accordingly."

## Share Your Safety Humor!

Do you have a funny safety story, joke, or cartoon idea that would brighten your colleagues' day? We want to hear from you! The Wichita ASSP Chapter is collecting member-submitted safety humor for future newsletter editions. Whether it's a clever heat safety pun, a tornado drill cartoon concept, or a humorous (but ultimately safe) summer work story, we'd love to feature your contribution. [Email your submissions](#) to the chapter communications team, and you might see your humor in print next month. Remember, the best safety humor reinforces good practices while making us smile — no mean-spirited jokes or humor that undermines actual safety protocols. Let's keep safety top of mind while keeping things light!

Bonus Challenge: Share one of these cartoons or quotes at your next safety meeting and watch engagement levels soar. Humor breaks down barriers and makes summer safety conversations more approachable. After all, a team that can laugh together about heat, storms, and sunscreen is a team that looks out for each other!

# Member Spotlight & Upcoming Events

The strength of the Wichita ASSP Chapter lies in the dedication and expertise of our members. As spring turns to summer in 2026, we're proud to recognize individuals who continue going above and beyond in advancing safety excellence throughout the Kansas safety community. Their contributions remind us that effective safety leadership takes many forms – from frontline observations to strategic program development to mentoring the next generation of safety professionals.

## ASSP National Website!

### Member Benefit Reminder

Did you know that ASSP membership provides access to hundreds of hours of free online training through the Safety Learning Portal? Members also receive summer-ready resources like heat illness prevention guidance, outdoor safety toolkits, and seasonal safety courses designed to support work in hot-weather and high-activity environments. If you haven't explored these benefits lately, visit the member portal and discover tools that can enhance your professional practice and support your continuing education requirements. Questions about maximizing your membership value? Reach out to our membership committee chair for a personalized benefits review.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATES!

### The Wichita Chapter WELCOMES our NEW MEMBERS!

Maria Aveilanedá

Justin Blew

Thomas Demorrow

Shane Etzold

Christopher Faulkner

Jenette Hanna

Corey Haynes

Ryan Henderson

Brian Hybsha

Dillon Infield

Troy Jellison

Trevor Kukuk

Colby Nokes

Mario Pereira

Kathryn Power

Gabriel Prescott

Thomas Rogers

Phillip Stufflebean

Laken Taylor

### A Special WELCOME to our new STUDENT MEMBERS!

Darcy Thompson

Rachel Weidemann

Michael Chavez

Michael Little

### Members Celebrating their 10-year Anniversary!

Andrew Wray

Beverly Figge

Kristen Flatin

### Members Celebrating their 15-year Anniversary!

Scott Morris

Nicholas Naramore

Brian Welch

### Members Celebrating their 35-year Anniversary!

James Dotts

Kirk Franklin

Janet Tammany

# Closing Thoughts & Call to Action



As we move into spring and the busiest, most demanding months of the year, the Wichita ASSP Chapter leadership team wants to thank you for your commitment to workplace safety. Kansas summers bring unique challenges — heat, severe weather, outdoor work, changing schedules, and higher exposure to risk — and your proactive leadership makes a real difference. The work you do every day to identify hazards, strengthen controls, train workers, and build a culture of care helps prevent injuries, protect families, and keep our communities strong.

## Review Your Programs

Use this newsletter as a checklist to review your heat illness prevention plans, tornado emergency action plans, and outdoor worker safety protocols before peak season



## Share the Knowledge

Forward relevant articles to supervisors, safety committee members, and frontline workers who will be most exposed to summer hazards

## Apply at Home

Remember that heat safety, severe weather preparedness, and sun protection apply at home too — protect your family with the same care you bring to your workplace



## Stay Connected

Engage with your ASSP chapter through summer meetings, events, and networking opportunities throughout the season

*"Safety is not just about compliance with regulations or avoiding OSHA citations. It's about ensuring that every worker who shows up for their shift goes home healthy at the end of the day — whether it's 75°F or 105°F. That's the real measure of our success."*

As you connect with colleagues across the Kansas safety professional network this spring and summer, remember how much stronger we are when we learn from one another. The people who answer questions, share lessons learned, and collaborate on practical solutions help our profession rise to the challenges of the season. The Wichita ASSP Chapter exists to support those connections and provide resources that help members stay effective through heat, storms, and the demands of outdoor work. Whether you're leading a team, advising management, or just beginning your safety journey, you're part of a community that cares.



## Connect With Us

Wichita ASSP Chapter [Contact us](#)  
Website: [www.wichita.assp.org](http://www.wichita.assp.org)  
LinkedIn: Wichita ASSP Chapter



## Get Support

Need guidance on a summer safety challenge? Our chapter members bring diverse expertise across industries. Reach out through our member forum or contact our technical resources committee for confidential assistance.



## Contribute

Have a topic you'd like to see covered in future newsletters? Success stories to share? Volunteer opportunities interest you? We want to hear from you. Your involvement shapes our chapter's direction.

**From all of us at the Wichita ASSP Chapter: Have a safe, productive, and healthy spring and summer!**

May your workdays be productive, your crews stay hydrated and prepared, your severe weather plans work when needed, and your workplaces remain safe throughout the season. Thank you for your commitment to protecting Kansas workers. We're honored to serve alongside you in this vital mission.

**Stay safe, stay informed, and stay connected.**

— The Wichita ASSP Chapter Leadership Team