

# ROOFING WORKER INCIDENT CASE STUDY

This tragic case underscores the importance of having a comprehensive heat illness prevention plan in place, especially for outdoor workers in hotter conditions



## Key Lessons Learned:

### Protection for New Workers:

Employers should take extra precautions for new employees during their first two weeks on the job, ensuring they have sufficient rest breaks and hydration.

### Immediate Attention to Symptoms:

It's critical not to leave workers alone if they express heat-related symptoms. Quick intervention can be life-saving.

### Understanding Heat Stress:

Workers can experience severe heat-related illnesses at temperatures that may not seem extreme. The combined effects of environmental heat and workload can be significant.

## Background:

In July, a 42-year-old man began working as a roofer. His employer lacked a formal heat illness prevention plan, despite providing access to water, ice, and electrolyte drinks. On his third day, temperatures reached 86°F with a relative humidity of 57%, leading to a heat index of 90°F.

## Incident

The worker reported feeling hot and sick in the afternoon and isolated himself in the sun. Unfortunately, when his coworkers found him, he was showing symptoms of heat stroke. He was transported to the hospital, where he later died.