CRMCA Safety Note #16
Heat Exhaustion/Sunstroke

The South is known for its extremes. During summer months we can be exposed to heat exhaustion. Excessive heat causes accidents in many ways. It becomes more difficult to concentrate on the job, you sweat and get tired and nervous, and begin making errors in judgment.

How to prevent heat exhaustion:
1. Avoid consuming alcohol and ice water while working. Drink plenty of cool fluids; citrus or fruit juices work best. Avoid heavy, fatty-type foods.
2. Wear light, loose clothing.
3. Avoid fatigue; get plenty of rest. Replace lost body salts.
4. See a doctor if you are not feeling well.

How to recognize heat exhaustion:
1. A person is dazed, staggers or becomes dizzy.
2. There is a feeling of nausea or vomiting; the person also can feel chilly.
3. Their face looks pale.
4. There is a weak pulse and body temperature is below normal.
5. A person is lying out unconscious.

What to do:
1. Call for emergency medical assistance.
2. Keep the victim lying down with their head lower than their feet.
3. Loosen the victim’s clothing.
4. Keep the victim warm. (Remember, one of the results is the person feels chilly.) Give fluids if possible. Avoid ice water and alcohol. Salt solutions are best.

Remember: Both heat exhaustion and sunstroke are serious matters. In both cases, the body is reacting to a life-threatening situation.

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