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OSHA and Climate Change (Heat Illness, Wildfire Smoke, and Super Storms) [Webinar Recording]

On Tuesday, July 12, 2022, [Kate McMahon](#), [Ashley Mitchell](#), and [Samuel Rose](#) presented a webinar regarding OSHA and Climate Change (Heat Illness, Wildfire Smoke, and Super Storms).

Recent studies show that workers are often the first to experience the effects of climate change and may be affected for longer durations and at greater intensities. NIOSH cites a 2014 study indicating that workers are “the canaries in the coal mine of climate change impacts.” Accordingly, OSHA has embarked on one of the broadest, most significant rulemakings it has undertaken in over a decade – to develop a comprehensive occupational standard to regulate heat illness associated with exposure to heat on the job – in outdoors as well as indoor settings. 

A heat standard will impact scores of employers in every region of the country and may include requirements to provide conditioned air or increased building ventilation, shade tents, regular paid cool down rest periods, rigorous acclimatization periods, biological monitoring to ensure employees are not dehydrated or showing signs of heat stress, and even turn employers into the water police. The standard has become a top priority for the Biden Administration as part of their interagency effort to address climate change and the impact it is having on US worker populations, especially since most elements of the Administration’s climate agenda died with the unsuccessful Build Back Better legislation.

The webinar discussed OSHA’s heat illness rulemaking – its status, scope and what it may require – as well as the other significant steps OSHA is taking to address heat illness, including the emergent National Emphasis Program (NEP) on heat illness. The program also delved into other impacts of climate change on OSHA’s regulatory scheme, such as expectations around major storm preparation and response, as well as exposure to wildfire smoke.

We are pleased to share these links to a [copy of the slides](#) and a [recording of the webinar](#).

If you would like to be registered for the entire 2022 series, [click here to send us an email request](#) and we will get you registered.

This was the 7th webinar event in Conn Maciel Carey LLP's [2022 OSHA Webinar Series](#). Click [here](#) to view our full schedule and detailed program descriptions for all of the webinars scheduled for the [2022 OSHA Webinar Series](#).



If you missed any of our past webinars in our annual OSHA Webinar Series, view our [OSHA Webinar Library](#) to access of our webinar recordings. Also, [click here to subscribe to our YouTube channel](#) and get an email notification when new recordings become available.