

TOOLBOX TALK #49

FACE COVERINGS AND HOT CONDITIONS

People who work in hot, humid conditions may not like the idea of wearing a face covering to decrease their risk of exposure to COVID-19, but it's necessary. Help them stay comfortable while preventing the spread of illness by following these best practices from OSHA:

- Prioritize the use of cloth face coverings when workers are in close contact with others (less than 6 feet), such as during two-person tasks or meetings.
- Acclimate new and returning workers to environmental and work conditions while they wear cloth facial coverings.
- Consider letting workers remove cloth facial coverings when they can safely maintain 6 feet of distance from others.
- Incorporate at least six feet of physical distancing into break areas by staggering breaks, spacing workers, or limiting the number of workers on break at a time, where feasible.
- Evaluate the feasibility of wearing cloth facial coverings for each worker and consider alternatives (i.e. faceshields) when appropriate.
- Let workers return to personal vehicles during breaks to use air conditioning, when possible. However, multiple workers should not return to the same car.
- Increase the frequency of hydration and rest breaks in cooled environments.
- Enhance ventilation throughout the worksite, including in break areas, where feasible.
- Allow workers to wear personal passive cooling items (i.e., icepack vests, cooling bandanas) and loose-fitting and breathable clothes, as long as these items don't present a safety hazard.

