

U.S. Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Inspection Number: 1159968
Inspection Date(s): 06/30/2016 - 06/30/2016
Issuance Date: 12/16/2016



Citation and Notification of Penalty

Company Name: U.S. Postal Service
Inspection Site: 8205 Braesmain Drive, Houston, TX 77025

Citation 1 Item 1 Type of Violation: **Repeat**

OSH ACT of 1970 Section (5)(a)(1): The employer did not furnish employment and a place of employment which were free from recognized hazards that were causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees in that employees were exposed to heat. On or about June 17, 2016, in Houston, Texas, City Letter Carriers were exposed to excessive heat when delivering mail to residential and commercial facilities.

The U. S. Postal Service was previously cited for a violation of this Occupational Safety and Health Standard which was contained in OSHA inspection number 538158 citation number 1, item number 1 and was affirmed as a final order on 10/24/2014, with respect to a workplace located at 3525 South Cottage Avenue, Independence, Missouri.

The U. S. Postal Service was previously cited for a violation of this Occupational Safety and Health Standard which was contained in OSHA inspection number 917092 citation number 1, item number 1 and was affirmed as a final order on 04/30/2014, with respect to a workplace located at 20 Forest Street, Medford, Massachusetts.

The U. S. Postal Service was previously cited for a Repeat violation of this Occupational Safety and Health Standard which was contained in OSHA inspection number 1075844 citation number 2, item number 1 and was affirmed as a final order on 09/08/2016, with respect to a workplace located at 616 W. 2nd Street, Ottumwa, Iowa.

See pages 1 through 4 of this Citation and Notification of Penalty for information on employer and employee rights and responsibilities.



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Among other methods, one feasible and acceptable abatement method to correct this hazard is to follow the guidelines contained in the OSHA-NIOSH Infosheet "Protecting Workers from Heat Illness," the OSHA document "Using the Heat Index: A Guide for Employers," the NIOSH document "Criteria for a Recommended Standard Occupational Exposure to Heat and Hot Environments," and OSHA's Safety and Health Topics Page on Occupational Heat Exposure:

1. Establish and implement a comprehensive, written heat related illness prevention program.
2. Designate and train a knowledgeable person onsite who is well informed about heat related illnesses and authorized to modify work activities and the work/rest schedule.
3. Train all employees regarding the service's Heat Stress Program, the health effects associated with heat stress and recognizing the signs, symptoms and methods of the prevention of heat-induced illnesses.
4. Develop specific procedures to be followed for emergency situations and procedures for first aid to be administered immediately to employees displaying symptoms of a heat related illness.
5. Verify that adequate medical services are available. Train employees, such as Route Examiners, to administer first aid for heat related illnesses. Supply adequate medical supplies and equipment such as cool towels and a thermometer.
6. Develop a written schedule for acclimatizing employees beginning work in a hot environment or those returning from an absence of a week or more.
7. Establish or designate air conditioned areas along the delivery route where heat-affected employees may take their breaks and/or recover.
8. Physiologically monitor workers by establishing a routine to periodically check workers for physical signs such as body temperature, heart rate and body water loss. Use dermal patches for monitoring employee body temperatures to better identify when workers need to be removed from the work area.
9. Establish specific break schedules during high-temperature conditions that differ from regular break

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schedules. Ensure that these break schedules are followed.

ABATEMENT DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR THIS ITEM

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:
Proposed Penalty:

01/17/2017
\$124709.00

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark R. Briggs". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Mark R. Briggs
Area Director

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