Heat illness is preventable and can be deadly! The National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA) sponsored an industry Stand Down on Water, Rest, and Shade the week of May 16, 2016. The purpose of the Stand Down was to heighten awareness on heat-related illness and provide educational resources about how to be safe in the heat.

Q: How did staff participate in the Stand Down?
A: Our regional Safety Supervisors presented educational information each day to our Solid Waste Equipment Operators (SWEO).

Q: Did the department have a Heat Illness Prevention plan prior to the Stand Down?
A: Yes! An important safety tailgate is provided to SWEOs each year that is focused on summer safety. Information includes signs of heat exhaustion and stroke, prevention, and treatment.

A RECENT TESTIMONIAL

The stand down refresher made me feel safe in the workplace. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is important to stay cool while working in my daily routine. I understand how serious heat stress is in Arizona and it could change from day to day. My number one priority is to stay hydrated.

- Solid Waste Equipment Operator, East Region

WATER, REST, AND SHADE

East Region SWEOs Leo Ventura and Michael Farnham taking a break and hydrating.

SWEOs in our South Region preparing their water jugs with ice and water!
CHECKLIST

Safety Supervisors completed a checklist created by NWRA to track their progress throughout the week. Along with presenting information, Safety Supervisors engaged with staff by reminding them in the field to take breaks, stay hydrated, took photos, and asked staff how they felt about the Stand Down. Safety Supervisors also posted information in various areas for staff to be well aware of the Stand Down.

SUCCESS STORIES

While we remind our side rail operators to stay hydrated and take precaution against the heat, they are not as exposed to the elements as our bulk trash crews who are constantly maneuvering equipment without protection of the cab.

SWEO Joe Drake from North Region, pictured below, is always prepared for the heat with a wide-brimmed hat, shades, a long-sleeve high visibility shirt, neck protection, and a gallon of water!

East Region Safety Supervisor Christy Ortiz and South Region Safety Supervisor Joe Vasquez are pictured below, engaging with SWEOs as they explain each day’s Safety Monday topic and remind them to always be prepared in the heat.

FAST FACTS

126+
Number of days Phoenix employees are exposed to extreme heat over 100°F

2,000
Amount of people who visit Arizona emergency rooms because of heat-related illnesses each year.

1,500+
Number of deaths from exposure to excessive natural heat in Arizona.

Information from the Arizona Department of Health Services
Thank you to all of our Safety Supervisors and staff for making this year’s Safety Stand Down a success!