



TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF ILLINOIS RISK MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

RISK REMINDER

PARTNERING WITH TOWNSHIPS

The Silent Job Site Hazard

Each year, there is an alarming increase in the incidence of skin cancer. Sunlight is the main source of ultraviolet radiation (UV), which causes damage to the skin and can cause skin cancer. If construction workers are working near reflective surfaces such as concrete, water, unpainted corrugated steel, building glass and aluminum they may also be exposed to indirect UV radiation.

While most construction workers cover up their arms, legs and torso on the job site, their faces and necks are still exposed to the sun's harmful rays. Skin cancer that develops on the ear or the lip has a high chance of spreading to other parts of the body causing death.

Because of the more immediate dangers involved in construction work, it is not surprising that workers do not recognize the need to protect themselves. It is critical for young workers to beware of the effect of unprotected sun exposure, as there is generally a lag time of 10 to 30 years for the clinical appearance of skin cancer to occur. The more time spent unprotected in the sun, the higher the risk of developing skin cancer.

Melanoma in men is rising faster than any other cancer.

Here are a few things employers can do:

- Supply workers with a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher
- Ensure adequate shaded areas for workers on breaks and lunch
- If possible, rotate workers to shaded areas of the jobsite
- Educate workers on the hazards of UV radiation
- Ensure that workers use UV-absorbent safety glasses



****Skin cancers detected early can almost always be cured.***

For more information, contact TOIRMA at (888) 562-7861

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