

External Factors Affecting Heat Stress

- Air movement
- Clothing
- Radiant heat ( hot vessels and sun)
- Humidity
- Work rate (Mild/ Moderate/ Heavy)

If these not controlled HEAT STRESS MAY OCCUR!!!

# Effects of Heat stress on your body

- Prickly heat (skin rash)
- Muscle Cramps (pain and [ tension in muscles)
- Exhaustion (feeling weak)
- Syncope (fainting)
- Heat Stroke (life threatening!)

Heat Cramps Your body is telling you to slow down!

#### You Feel:

- Moist cool pale skin
- Nauseated
- Tired
- Muscle twitching
- Painful muscle cramps

Heat Exhaustion your body is starting to loose the battle!

#### You Feel:

- Heavy sweating
- Weak and fatigued
- Headache and dizzy
- Nauseated
- Rapidly breathing
- Intense thirst
- Vomiting



Heat Stroke <u>"Life threatening!"</u> (The body can no longer regulate it's own temperature!)

- Hot red skin
- NO sweating
- Rapid pulse
- Difficulty in breathing
- Confusion
- Vomiting
- Coma



## **Risk Factors**

- Dehydration,
- Lack of acclimatization, (from cool climate)
- Unfit,
- Lack of sleep,
- Tea/ Coffee and alcohol consumption,
- Cold / Flu / medical condition,



• Some medications and drugs.

#### Prevention

●<sup>™</sup>Start drinking water ( before you start work), ●<sup>™</sup>Drink water (As much as you need), Check your Urine colour (note the urine color), ●<sup>™</sup>Ensure adequate ventilation, ●<sup>™</sup>Rotate work (from hot to cool areas), ●<sup>™</sup>Report to your Supervisor or the Nurse at first sign of any problem your work mates

## Warning!

- You need to learn to drink, even when you are not thirsty.
- By the time you feel thirsty you are already 10% dehydrated
- Urine colour gives indication of hydration state ie,

(if urine is dark drink more)



## Heat Stress

The color of Urine tells you how dehydrated you are!

