

TWO-HOURS VIRTUAL PROGRAM

ON

EXTREME HEAT & OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY

Date: 24th April 2025

Time: 14:30 hrs to 16:30 hrs

1. BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

Climate change has led to a significant increase in global temperatures, resulting in more frequent and severe heatwaves. These extreme heat events pose substantial health risks to outdoor and industrial workers, including those in agriculture, construction, manufacturing, and mining sectors. Exposure to high temperatures can lead to heat-related illnesses (HRIs) such as heat exhaustion, heatstroke, and chronic conditions affecting vital organs. Furthermore, heat stress can impair cognitive function and increase the likelihood of workplace accidents, thereby reducing productivity and compromising worker safety. (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), 2020)

In Gujarat, a significant portion of the workforce operates in outdoor environments across multiple government departments, including agriculture, construction, law enforcement, disaster management, and municipal services. The implications of extreme heat are particularly concerning for workers engaged in manual labour, emergency response, and public service operations, as prolonged exposure to high temperatures can lead to heat-related illnesses (HRIs), reduced productivity, and increased risk of accidents. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive understanding of occupational heat stress and the implementation of effective mitigation strategies tailored to diverse work environments.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM

- To educate and enhance awareness among officials and field workers on extreme heat risks to health and productivity.
- To introduce and discuss workplace safety measures, hydration strategies, and cooling solutions tailored for high-temperature environments.
- To review early warning systems, employer responsibilities, and labour policies pertinent to heat stress management.
- To enhance the preparedness of industries and government agencies in mitigating heat-related occupational hazards.

3. EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

- **Enhanced Understanding of Heat Stress Risks:** Participants will recognize the impact of extreme heat on worker health, productivity, and safety across various government sectors.
- **Implementation of Heat Mitigation Strategies:** Departments will be equipped to integrate sector-specific adaptation measures.
- **Improved Emergency Preparedness:** Attendees will gain knowledge on heat stress first aid, early warning systems, and inter-departmental coordination for heatwave response.
- **Policy and Program Integration:** Participants will be able to incorporate heat stress management into existing workplace safety policies, disaster preparedness plans, and climate resilience initiatives.

4. PROGRAM DURATION & MODE

- **Date:** 28th April 2025
- **Duration:** 2 Hours
- **Mode:** Online
- **Format:** Virtual (Zoom)

5. TARGET DEPARTMENTS

Sr. No.	Target Departments
1.	Agriculture & Co-operation Department <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directorate of Animal Husbandry • Commissioner of Fisheries • Gujarat Livestock Development Board (GLDB)
2.	Road & Building Department
3.	Urban Development & Urban Housing Department <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal Corporations
4.	Narmada, Water Resources, Water Supply & Kalpsar Department
5.	Ports & Transport Department <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner of Transport • Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation
6.	Industries & Mines Department
7.	Labour, Skill Development and Employment Department
