

December 9, 2024

Information Bulletin #022

To All Members of the PCRB:

**Re: When Temperatures Rise, Workplace Injuries Increase According to New
PCRB Research Brief**

There is a higher incidence of workers' compensation injuries as temperatures rise, especially above 80 degrees, according to a new research brief from the Pennsylvania Compensation Rating Bureau titled *Impact of Excess Heat on Workplace Injuries*.

The research brief examines the impact of excessive heat on workplace injuries using workers' compensation claims data from Pennsylvania over 11 policy years (2012-2022), focusing on outdoor industries like Agriculture and Construction that are exposed to higher temperatures.

"Assessing the relationship between temperature fluctuations and heat-related claims can aid employers aiming to improve workplace safety and offers valuable data-driven insights around heat-related claims," says PCRB President and CEO William Taylor.

Heat-related workers' compensation claims increased by 36%, rising from 0.25% to 0.35% as the average number of days exceeding 80 degrees rose from 51 (2012-2017) to 62 (2018-2022). Moreover, the number of heat-related claims dramatically increases when the temperature rises from 75-80 degrees to 80 degrees.

The research also found that months with more high-temperature days tend to show an increase in heat-related claims. This seasonality can play a significant role in workers' compensation claims, particularly in occupations that experience increased activity during warm weather, like Landscaping/Grounds Maintenance, Agricultural, Construction, and Outdoor Events.

Among different industries, Contracting (31%) had the highest percentage of heat-related claims, followed by Goods and Services (23%) and Manufacturing (22%).

The complete research brief is available at pcrb.com. PCRB will host a webinar, Understanding Impact of Excess Heat on Workplace Injuries, at 10 a.m. on Jan. 29, 2025, featuring experts from PCRB's Actuarial Department taking participants on a deeper dive through data and insights uncovered in this research brief. Those interested can [register here](#).

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