SIF Alert: INITIAL communication

For leaders to discuss with their team

SIF Alert

Title:	Livermore Helicopter HEC Accident
Purpose:	Reviewing this Serious Injury and Fatality (SIF) Actual, will allow us to learn what organizational improvements need to be made to ensure job task hazard controls provide workers with greater capacity to perform their work safely. Please inform your employees of this incident as part of your next safety tailboard.
Preliminary information:	On Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at approximately 1000 hours, PG&E Helicopter Operations was conducting pilot qualification testing for Human External Cargo (HEC) operations at the Livermore Training Center. During the last stage of the testing with a helicopter operations coworker suspended on a 60-foot line, the helicopter lost power and descended, impacting the ground. The pilot was seriously injured and was admitted to the hospital. The helicopter operations coworker was transported to the hospital, examined, and released. The helicopter was substantially damaged. Immediate actions taken: • Contract helicopter partner was stood down, and a PG&E Aviation Safety Team is conducting a facility site visit and audit. • Pilot qualification flights and work method training stood down through the end of May. This accident falls under the jurisdiction of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). The NTSB is an independent government investigative agency appointed by Congress to investigate and determine the probable cause of all civilian aviation accidents within the United States. Our contractor partners and PG&E Aviation Services are supporting the NTSB as parties to the investigation. **Scope of PG&E Evaluation:** This incident meets the Serious Injury or Fatality (SIF) criteria. A PG&E SIF team has been formed to review and evaluate the HEC pilot qualification and HEC coworker training process. The goal is to identify controls to enhance safety. Aviation Services discussed the PG&E SIF process with the NTSB regarding this accident. The NTSB has no objection to PG&E conducting an internal cause evaluation focused on reviewing internal company policies, procedures, and training. However, the PG&E evaluation will not determine, speculate, or consider the cause of the May 11 accident and will rely solely on the NTSB's investigation and causal findings for the accident.
Next steps:	A SIF Team was formed to gather information, conduct an analysis, and complete an evaluation. The SIF team leads are as follows: Cause Evaluation Sponsor – Cause Evaluation Team Lead – IBEW Subject Matter Expert— Lead Cause Evaluator – Shared Services CAP Representative – Subject Matter Experts – The SIF team will provide a final report when the evaluation is complete.

PG&E ED Contractor Safety Call Notes

05/20/2022

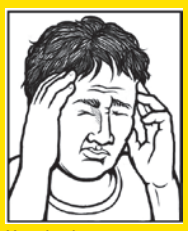
- Summit Line Construction
  - Crew was tasked with tying in a new 3-phase line & buck pole
  - JL1 attempted to pass an energized jumper to another JL2, in another bucket
  - While passing the jumper, the JL1 lost control of the jumper
  - The jumper contacted another phase, under the rubber blanket on a cutout
- UCS
  - Crew was tasked with cleaning out loose debris from a trench
  - The crew had installed shoring to prevent any damage to the concrete sidewalk
    - Trench depth was only 46” (shoring not required)
  - While a Groundman was in trench exposing a sewer line, a large chuck piece of concrete dislodged and pinned the employee in the trench
    - Piece was 9 feet x 18 inches x 8 inches thick
  - The Groundman was pinned for ~10 minutes before being dislodged
  - The crew called 911 and the Groundman was taken for further review

Health effects of heat

Two types of heat illness:

Heat Exhaustion


Dizziness

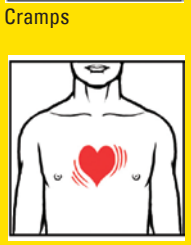

Headache

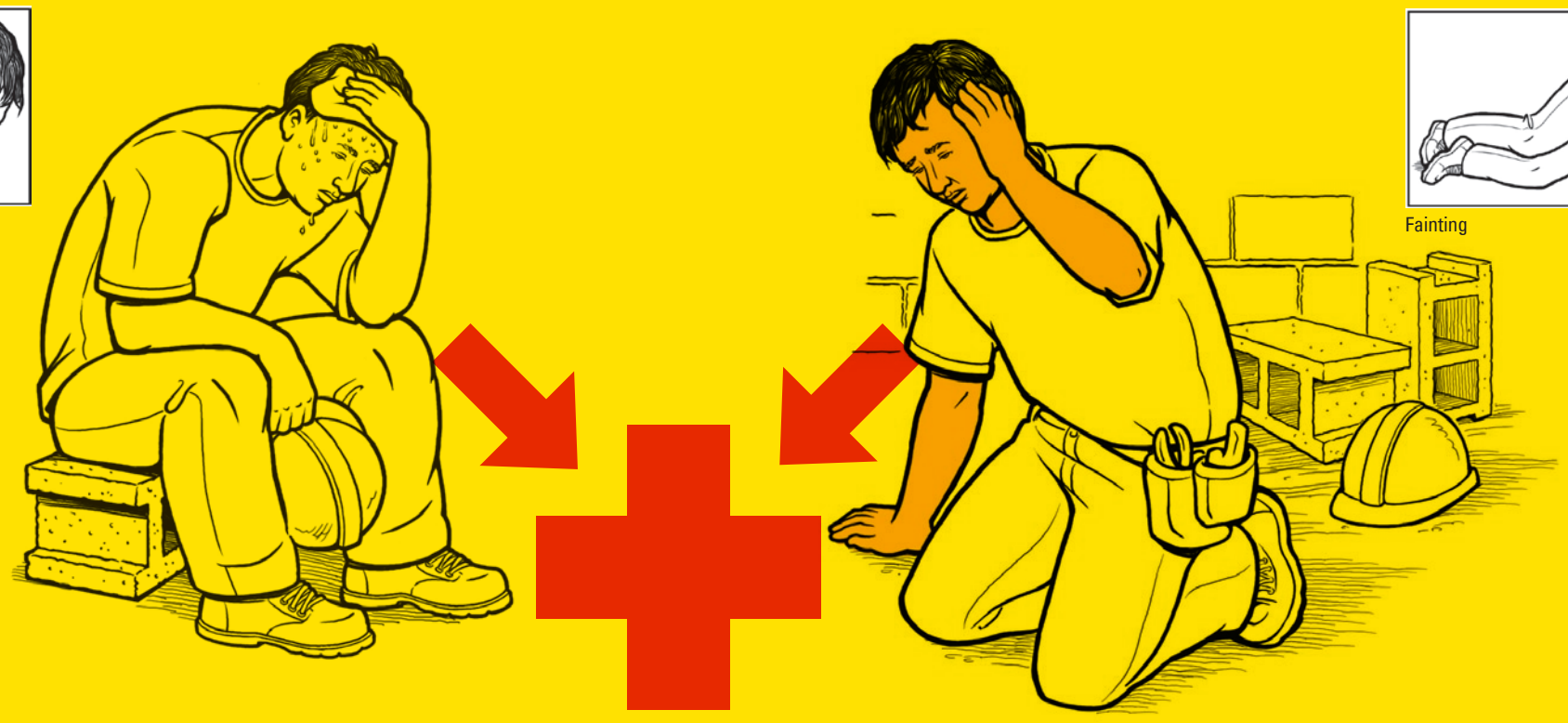

Sweaty skin


Weakness

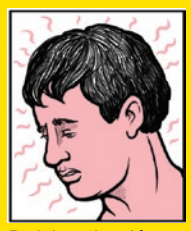

Cramps

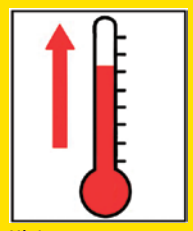

Nausea, vomiting


Fast heart beat

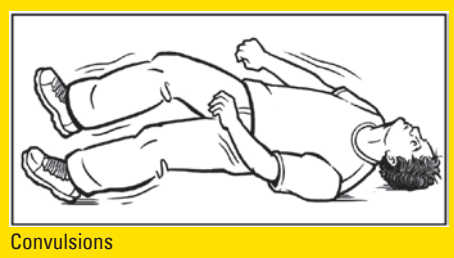


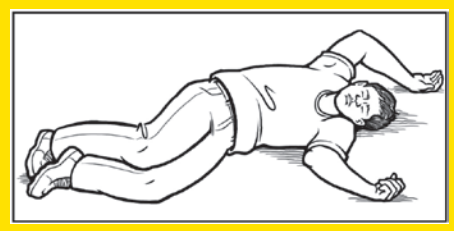
Heat Stroke


Red, hot, dry skin


High temperature


Confusion


Convulsions

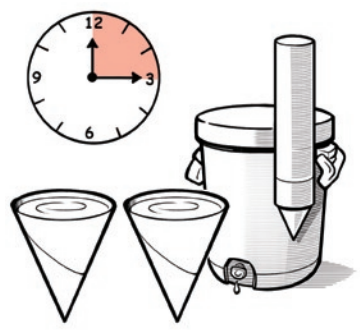

Fainting

Watch out for early symptoms. You may need medical help.
People react differently — you may have just a
few of these symptoms, or most of them.

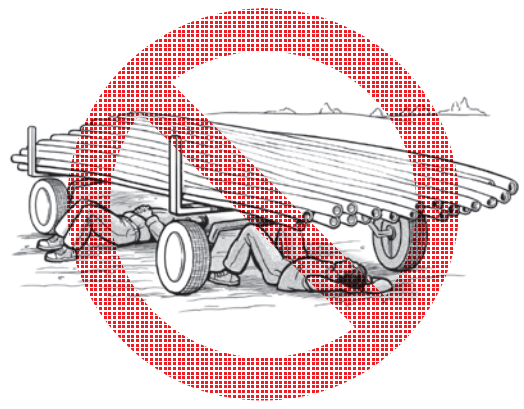
Stay safe and healthy!

WATER. REST. SHADE. *The work can't get done without them.*

Drink water even if you aren't thirsty — every 15 minutes.

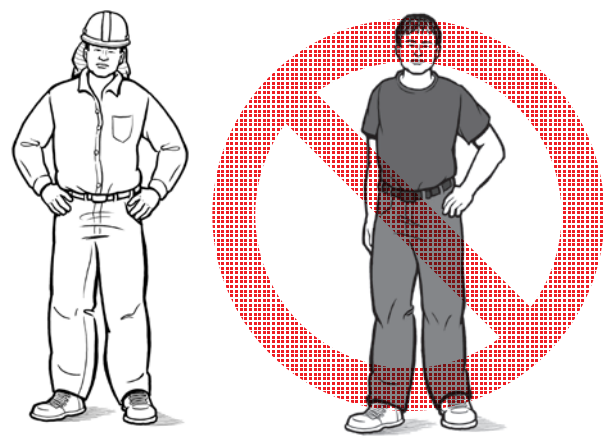


Rest in the shade.



Watch out for each other.

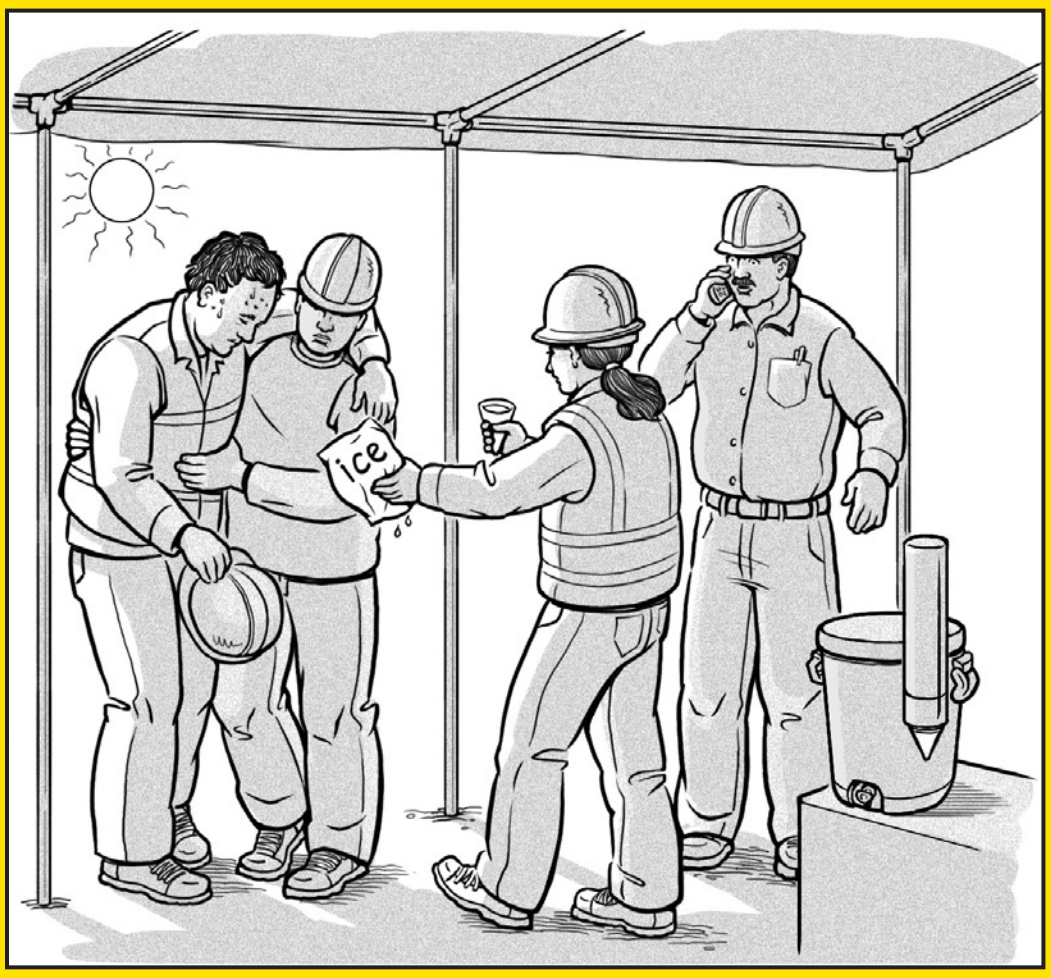
Wear hats and light-colored clothing.



"Easy does it" on your first days of work in the heat. You need to get used to it.
Rest in the shade – at least 5 minutes as needed to cool down.

Be prepared for an emergency

Heat kills -- get help right away!



If someone in your crew has symptoms:

1) Tell the person who has a radio/phone and can call the supervisor – you need medical help.

2) Start providing first aid while you wait for the ambulance to arrive.

3) Move the person to cool off in the shade.

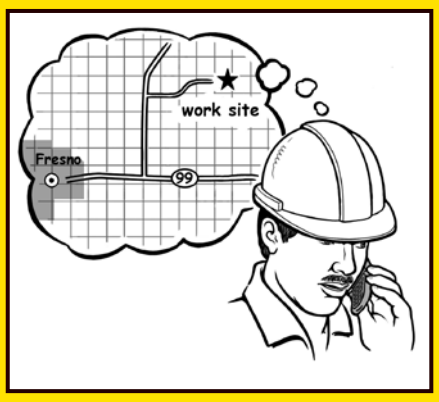
4) Little by little, give him water (as long as he is not vomiting).

5) Loosen his clothing.

6) Help cool him: fan him, put ice packs in groin and underarms, or soak his clothing with cool water.

When you call for help, you need to:

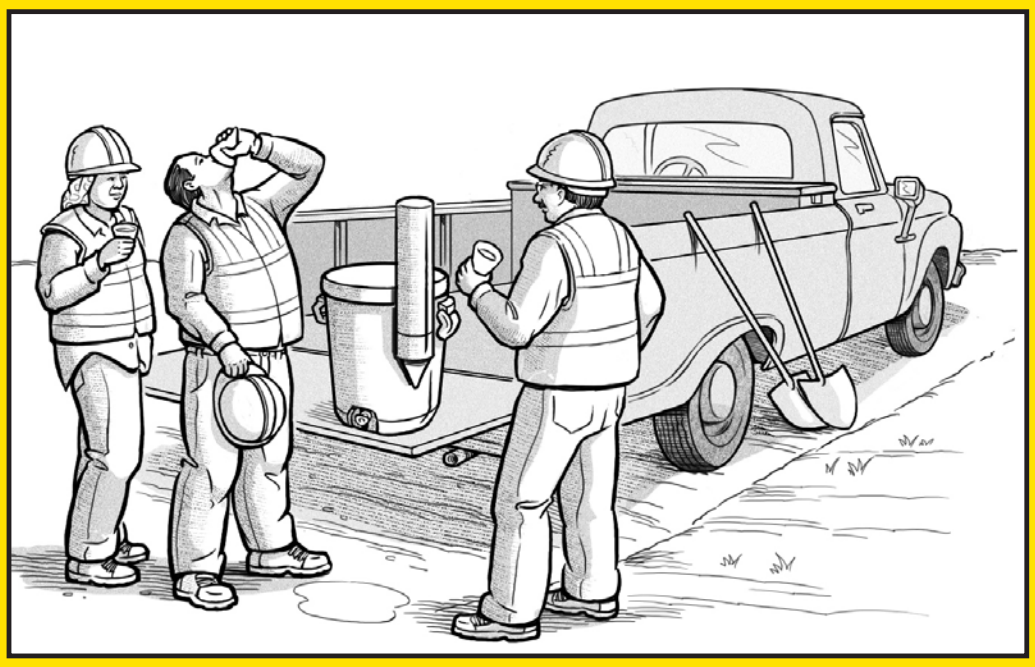
- Be prepared to describe the symptoms.
- Give specific and clear directions to your work site.



Workers do not pay for ambulances or medical care.

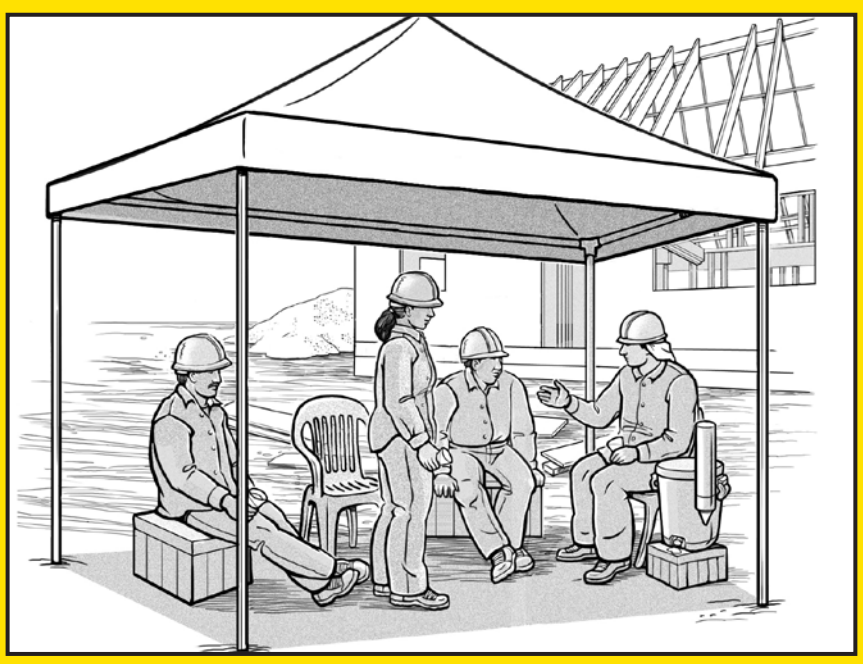
Heat illness can be prevented!

At our work site, we have:

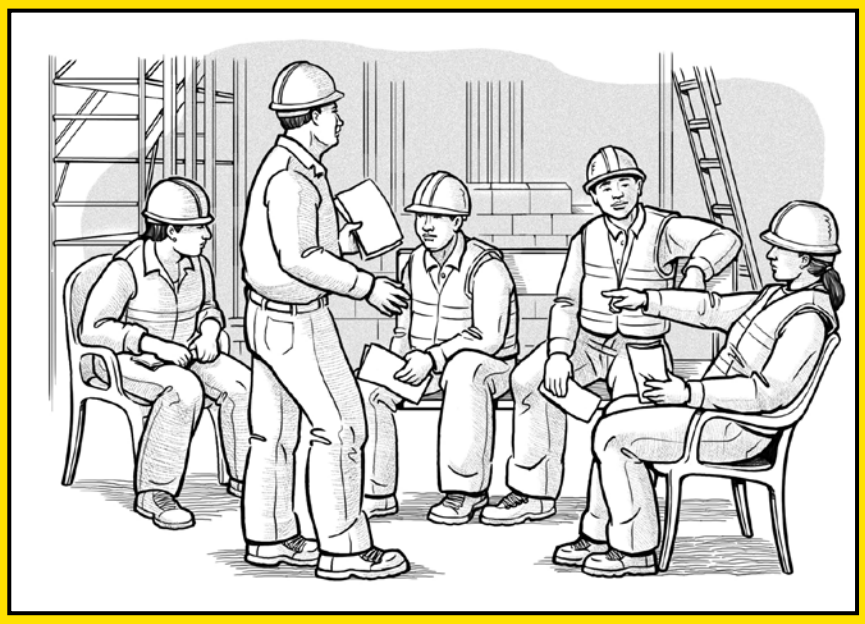


Water

We are extra careful when there is a heat wave or temperature goes up. Then we may change our work hours, and we all need more water and rest.



Shade to rest and cool down



Training and emergency plan

(b) Work Procedures for Rubber Gloving

(1) Before any work is to be done

i. A complete tailboard shall be held per Section 1.37. The purpose is to ensure all personnel are aware of the work and associated hazards.

ii. All rigging shall be inspected and assured to be in good working order and appropriate for the work being performed.

iii. All rubber goods and high voltage protective equipment shall be inspected to verify safe condition. The inspection shall include verifying test and issue dates.

iv. Immediately prior to using aerial devices for high voltage rubber glove work all insulated portions shall be visually inspected and wiped clean.

v. All energized conductors or equipment within reach of minimum approach distance (MAD) shall be covered with approved protective equipment or floated free from the pole exceptthose parts that are actually being worked on.

vi. When work is performed on energized primary conductors, all second points of contact (for example other conductors, neutral grounds, cross-arms, poles, pot-heads etc.) within reaching distance shall be covered with approved protective equipment.

vii. Where possible and upon request of the crew, the automatic re-closer shall be made nonautomatic.

viii. When an energized primary conductor is placed on the cross-arm or against the pole, it shall be covered with a line hose; in addition, the cross-arm or pole shall be covered with approved protective devices.

ix. When work is being performed on high voltage energized conductors, on the same structure, the work shall be confined to only one phase of a circuit at a time.

x. Separate structures and conductors may be worked simultaneously provided the job is coordinated so all personnel are safeguarded from unexpected changes in work distances due to movement of conductors or equipment. At all times personnel shall be under direct supervision of the Foreman.

xi. Pedestrians will be diverted around the work area.

xii. Rubber gloving shall not be performed whenever the majority of Journeyman Lineman determine that it would be unsafe to do so.

xiii. If inclement weather develops after work has begun and the job must be completed, the live line tool method shall be used, or the circuit shall be de-energized.

xiv. Any work that may produce an arc will require the use of live-line tools. Such work shall include opening switches; installing or removing energized jumpers under load, grounding, etc.

xv. Live-line tools and attachments shall be maintained on the crews.

xvi. No conductive tools, equipment or material shall be allowed to hang on the outside of the buckets. Caution should be used to ensure the manufactures weight capacities of the aerial lift are not compromised.

xvii. Electric cords shall not be allowed in the primary zone.

5.2 MILEAGE - SUBSISTENCE

(a) A flat rate of fifty dollars ($50.00) per day shall be paid for each day worked.

(b) Voluntary Terminations: A worker must work four (4) hours or until noon whichever is later, to be entitled to subsistence for the day.

(c) Employees covered under this Agreement shall not reside at any job headquarters.