

Good afternoon. My name is Eric Roscoe Yates. I am Balfour Beatty Infrastructure's Southeast Region's Environmental, Health & Safety Manager. Balfour Beatty Infrastructure performs heavy civil construction projects in the Mid Atlantic, Southeast, Southwest and California, to include highways, bridges, water/wastewater treatment facilities, ports, and rail. We employ just under 4,000 people. I am here in support of Maryland AGC, and we respectfully request that the amendments proposed in Maryland AGC's testimony be adopted and that HB 722 be given a favorable report as amended.

My background includes 21 years of combined experience in residential construction, heavy civil construction, oil and gas, and manufacturing working with a mixture of trades, crafts and local unions. I hold a B.S., in Occupational Health and Safety and have acquired many Health & Safety certifications over the years including, Certified Safety Professional (CSP), Certified Construction Health and Safety Technician (CHST), and OSHA 500 Authorized Trainer. Currently, I am an active member of the Maryland AGC, Carolina's AGC, and National Safety.

Today, I want to share with you how Balfour Beatty Infrastructure manages the hazard of ambient heat, more so from the sun's heat in our line of work. But first, I want to share some statistics from heat stress related incidents we have experienced in our company from 2017 through 2019, six employees suffered adverse health effects from prolonged exposure to ambient heat (sun). Of these six, three required treatment at a medical facility. Considering the locations of our operations are in areas where heat indexes can get above triple digits, I believe this number would be higher if not for our proactive and consistent approach to how we manage exposure to heat.

Our approach consists of the following engineering, administrative and other controls:

1. A written Heat Stress Prevention Plan: This plan includes
 - a. Initial heat stress prevention training at orientation and at times of the year when moderate level (91 F) and above heat indexes are expected. This is given in person and/or by video. We find that video training works equally well, because we follow-up with on-site "tool box talks" and let our workers ask any questions they may have.
 - b. Planning work activities with heat stress risks in mind. This can be
 - i. Switching a day shift to a night shift to avoid the direct exposure to high heat risks.
 - ii. Beginning a shift earlier in the morning and ending the shift earlier in the afternoon.
 - iii. Scheduling activities that are outdoors in direct exposure to different days to minimize risks.
 - iv. Stopping work to protect people.
 - c. Proper clothing and PPE for prolonged heat exposure. This can include
 - i. Full brimmed hardhat
 - ii. Neck shade attachments
 - iii. Cooling bands and head rags.

- d. Encourage employees to stay hydrated at home and avoid excessive alcohol and energy drinks.
- e. How to recognize the signs and symptoms of heat stress. We highlight our “See Something, Say Something” program to remind employees to watch for these symptoms and say something.
- f. We put a buddy system in place as part of the acclimatization of new workers.
- g. Provide scheduled Safety Talks focused on heat stress prior to and throughout the high heat seasons.
- h. Utilize OSHA/NIOSH Heat Safety Tool app as a guide to determine risks and precautions. Our supervisors are issued company phones and directed to download this app.
- i. During moderate and above risk level days we provide several means to avoid prolonged exposure to heat and for hydration.
 - i. Shade tents
 - ii. Hydration stations
 - iii. Scheduled breaks
 - iv. Fans and fans with misting machines
- j. Posters and information are readily available and posted at all our locations as a reminder of the signs and symptoms and how to respond to someone with heat stress.
- k. Multiple people trained in First Aid/CPR/AED at each of our locations. This includes actions to take if someone is suspected of experiencing heat stress.
- l. Emergency phone numbers and addresses to clinics and hospitals are posted at all project locations.

Although Balfour Beatty Infrastructure has an already robust system in place, we are always actively looking for ways to improve our methods by adopting newer technologies and innovation that aim to reduce the risks of heat stress. Some of these include cooling packs, smart clothing, and hydration products. Because at the end of the day, we do not want to hurt people.

As I stated at the outset, I am here in support of Maryland AGC, and we respectfully request that the amendments proposed in Maryland AGC’s testimony be adopted and that HB 722 be given a favorable report as amended.

Thank you.

Eric R. Yates
Balfour Beatty Infrastructure, Inc.
Southeast Region Environmental, Health & Safety Manager