Outdoor Workers Should Always Wear Sunscreen But May Not



Workers who work outdoors, such as those in construction and forestry and who drive trucks, busses, etc. are exposed to the sun and so are at risk of developing skin cancer. Thus, they should wear sunscreen on the job. But according to a recent poll, such workers may not always wear sunscreen when needed.

The survey, conducted online by Harris Poll, asked US adults age 18 and older who work outdoors at least half the time how often they wear sunscreen at work. The study found that only 18% of outdoor workers always wear sunscreen at work.

The study also found that more than half (58%) of outdoor workers say they always or sometimes see a need to wear sunscreen at work. But 71% of outdoor workers say their employers don't provide sunscreen to them for use on the job, which is likely why 59% said they always or sometimes bring their own sunscreen to work.

So if your workers spend a lot of time outdoors, covering their skin with clothing and hats may not be sufficient protection. You should also ensure that they wear sunscreen at all times and make it easy for them to do so by providing it.

In addition, use these tools and other resources to protect workers at risk of developing skin cancer:

- A model sun safety policy
- A skin cancer self-assessment checklist

- A handout on the risks of sun exposure
- A sun safety poster
- A Summer Health & Safety Hazards Infographic
- A quiz workers can take to determine their risk of developing skin cancer based on factors such as their colouring, family history of skin cancer and whether they tan or burn.