

HOT, HOT, HOT - Safe Production in the Sizzling Summer Heat

Written by Lynn Mayer Shults, Regulatory Manager



*Misael Junior Macedo and
Misael Macedo Rios*



Francisco Pastrana



Pat Hollenbeck

In 2026, Colorado has been hotter and drier than average, contributing to wildfires, extreme work conditions, and water restrictions. Colorado's snowpack was at 24% of its 30-year norm over this past winter. July-2026 is the 14th consecutive month of above-average temperatures, with daily highs in Denver averaging a stifling 94 degrees. Drought conditions have worsened and multiple fast-growing wildfires have burned hundreds of thousands of acres in Colorado this summer. The smoke creates air quality concerns for everyone working outside. And Colorado is not alone, many parts of our nation and the world are suffering from extreme heat, drought, fires, and then flash flooding when the rains finally come.

Since we can't change this summer's weather, we must adapt our workdays to keep ourselves healthy and prevent heat-stress illnesses. At **88th Avenue in Henderson, Colorado**, our hard-working crew keeps cool when they can, and works safely in the heat by following the tips below and wearing the necessary PPE.

Here are some tips for everyone to work safely in the heat and prevent heat related illnesses:

- Drink water every 20 minutes. Fluids with electrolytes (salts) also help. Eat small, light meals.
- Wear clothing that allows sweat to evaporate off of skin.

Always watch out for each other, and be aware of heat stress symptoms, which can become serious fast. Symptoms of heat exhaustion include dizziness, thirst, heavy sweating, nausea, weakness. Symptoms of heat stroke are worse because the person may already be very dehydrated and have dry, hot skin, high body temperature, be confused, and may even pass out. If a person has any of these symptoms, get them to a cooler place, loosen clothing or remove extra layers, have them drink cool water, and place cool wet towels on their head, neck and body. If symptoms don't improve, get more help by calling a supervisor and 911.

We must also manage our operations to ensure production remains in environmental and permit compliance. With dry conditions, we may need to use more water in processing plants, on haul roads and stockpiles to prevent hazardous dusty conditions. Applying an annual coating of mag chloride on gravel haul roads helps prevent dust as well. Stockpiles of topsoil that will be used for reclamation should be vegetated with a cover crop of approved grasses to maintain their viability, and prevent erosion and dust.

With adjustments and extra awareness of extreme heat conditions, we can keep ourselves and our customers safe

*Pictured in the top left row:
Elie Priego and Donoban
Pacheco*

*Pictured in the top center row:
Andrew Dominguez, Raul
Sanchez, Erick Castillo, Jesus
Manriquez, and Mark Moreno*

*Pictured below:
The water truck at Ragsdale.*

- Wear sunscreen, and/or long sleeves, a neck shade with your hard hat.
- Take lunch and rest breaks in a cool area after strenuous activity.
- If possible, work in shaded areas.

when working and visiting our company sites.

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Birthdays This Week

Bryan Heubrock - Myrl & Roy's | Steve Brunick - Ace Ready Mix | Joel Bunkers - Dell Rapids East
Terry Bruhn - Dell Rapids West | Gavan Sallee - Brookings |
Robert Dickey - East Sioux Quarry | Lonnie Onken - Myrl & Roy's



UPRR'S Big Boy No. 4014 passing 88th Avenue on 07/29/26 on its way home after a coast-to-coast tour.

Union Pacific's famed [Big Boy No. 4014](#) is the world's largest operating steam locomotive. Built in 1941, it is 133 feet long, and weighs 1.2 million pounds. In 2026, Big Boy has traveled a historic coast-to-coast tour to celebrate America's 250th anniversary. It was restored in 2019 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the transcontinental railroad's completion and continues to serve as a traveling ambassador.



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