

Heat stroke cases among outdoor workers rising

By Noimot Olayiwola
Staff Reporter

Early onset of summer has triggered several cases of high risk environmental conditions such as heat stress and stroke among outdoor workers, a physician has observed.

Speaking to *Gulf Times* yesterday on the sidelines of an awareness talk titled, "Heat stress illness and prevention" organised by the Heart of Dohand Project TiME Qatar HSE department, senior specialist Dr Salim Mohamed said many people were caught off-guard when summer suddenly began during late May.

"We have recorded an increased number of heat stress and stroke among outdoor workers earlier in June this year compared to previous years," he said, while recalling that similar conditions occurred in mid-July last year.

In May, *Gulf Times* had reported that the Hamad Medical Corporation's emergency department was receiving up to 20 cases of heat stress and other heat-related problems daily due to sudden change in weather and lack of preparation by many residents.

Dr Mohamed explained that many cases of heat stress went undiagnosed as many affected workers were not educated enough to identify that they were suffering from heat stress.

"I have seen many outdoor workers complaining of muscle pain, dizziness and headaches instead of heat stress because they do not know what



Dr Mohamed making a presentation yesterday.

stress or stroke is all about," he pointed out.

"This kind of talk is important to create awareness among construction workers, especially their project managers, that delay in diagnosis of heat stress could lead to many adverse results such as low blood pressure and commatose," he added.

Earlier during the talk, Dr Mohamed highlighted common

symptoms of heat illness, including very high temperature, rapid pulse, shallow breathing and unconsciousness.

"All these conditions can be prevented if some precautions are followed such as restriction and less strenuous outdoor works, light clothing, use of minimal equipment, drinking extra fluids such as oral rehydration salt (ORS) and monitoring for

early symptoms of heat injury," he maintained.

"It is advisable for field workers and other people at high risk of dehydration to drink two-four glasses of ORS during working hours," Dr Mohamed suggested.

One of the organisers of the awareness talk, Turner International Middle East Limited HSE manager Benjamin Aniamma, explained the importance of ORS

to the participants: "Though ORS is attributed to treating diarrhoea, it is equally good for a rapid restoration of blood volume and stimulate the rate and completeness of rehydration."

He added that the salt solution was considered the main factor of oral rehydration therapy selected by the World Health Organisation as the first line of treatment of dehydration worldwide.

QNB Al Islami opens branch at Shamal

QNB Al Islami has formally opened its new branch at Shamal.

With the opening of the new branch, QNB Al Islami's branch network now increases to 13, including an international branch in Sudan.

QNB Al Islami's network is further complemented by QNB's local network of 44 branches and offices including three mobile branches, as well as a network of more than 160 ATMs, which makes it the largest banking network in Qatar.

QNB Al Islami offers an innovative range of modern Islamic banking products and services, which are certified by the bank's Shariah advisory board. These include retail and corporate services in addition to various other Shariah-approved financing solutions.

Among the products available at the Shamal branch are current accounts, call investment accounts, savings investment accounts, fixed investment deposits and do-

mestic Murabaha finance for vehicles and goods.

QNB Al Islami has been very active in the Islamic banking industry since inception in 2005, when it became the first Islamic financial institution to be established by a conventional bank in Qatar, with a leading market share amongst the Islamic windows of conventional banks.

The bank has over the years built a reputation for innovation in Islamic financial services and has launched many innovative solutions for its customers, including electronic banking services, which are offered via the easylife platform and S@hl, QNB's corporate eBanking portal.

The easylife suite of banking solutions comprise primarily of consumer applications tailored to help customers conduct their banking at home, at the office or on the move.

QNB Al Islami is also the only bank in Qatar to offer an Islamic co-branded credit card in association with MasterCard and Qatar Airways.

Barwa subsidiary names new CEO

Waseef, one of the leading fully integrated property, facility and assets management companies in Qatar and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Barwa, yesterday announced the appointment of Sutton Turner as chief executive officer.

Waseef is the operational partner for Barwa that serves their Qatari developments with brokerage and robust asset, facility and property management. The company serves as a vital link between Barwa Real Estate Company and service providers to ensure better services to customers.

Turner was previously the founding CEO of a property and services management company based in the UAE.

Sutton is an alumnus of the Harvard Business School (USA), has a Master in Business Administration from Southern Methodist University (USA), and a Master in



Sutton Turner

Agriculture and Bachelor of Science from Texas A&M University (USA).

Ibrahim Fakrhuo, chairman of Waseef, said: "Waseef intends to be the leading property services company in Qatar and Sutton Turner's appointment, together with the vast experience he brings both from the UAE and the US, will support us significantly in this respect".

Contest results

The following readers are the winners of *Time Out's* "Despicable Me" contest: Kausteebh Selokar, Amira Zafarullah, Neetha Narayanan, Milagros S Casareo, Faiqa Khanum, Rishaan J K, Samreen Rizwan Shaikh, Saptrishi Pandey, Aswathy Anna Baby, Chamath Dharmatileke, Shibli Ashraf, Hiral Agrawal, Vinod Sharma, Nimeth Ranwala, and Kuriakose M Jacob.

Prizes may be collected by July 29, 2010 from *Gulf Times'* Features department, from 5-7pm.

QSA receives award for GIS

The Qatar Statistics Authority (QSA) has received a special achievement in GIS (SAG) award at the 30th Annual ESRI International User Conference held recently in San Diego, California, USA.

This award is given to user sites around the world to recognise outstanding work with GIS technology. ESRI is a software development and services company providing geographic information system (GIS) software and geo-database management applications.

A spokesman said the Qatar Statistics Authority GIS stood out from all the other 100,000 authorities. The International GIS Conference, organised annually by ESRI, was attended by more than 13,000 delegates from 134 countries.

The QSA was recognised and honoured from among the 150 other organisations. The recognition was because of using GIS technology in statistical operations like the general census of population and housing and establishments.

The QSA utilised GIS to prepare detailed digital base maps using on-line geographic information available through SDE databases maintained by Qatar GISnet and integrated all geographic maps into PDA; it was used for the first time in general census.

The other usages included Geo-Statistics Application - by using GIS software, a web-based application has been developed for the statistical data users to browse the statistics, search for and locate streets and landmarks like schools, malls and petrol stations.



Only the lanes leading to Old Airport were open while those leading to Al Wakrah and Mesaieed (on the right) had to be closed.

Doha Expressway lane to reopen next week

By Sarmad Qazi
Staff Reporter

Repair work on the damaged portion of a newly-built road that joins the Doha Expressway between Abu Hamour and D-Ring Road is nearing completion and the street is expected to be reopened next week, sources here said.

The road was damaged after a contractor, erecting poles, destroyed the water pipe under one of the "islands" (the junction where traffic goes in and out from the main road to the smaller road), causing it to cave in.

Gulf Times had report-

ed the issue on June 26.

Following the incident, traffic on the road was closed, with engineers detecting and then stopping water leak.

There were delicate cables, water pipes and sewage pipes running under the road.

"We have finished repairing the valves and started laying out asphalt on the road. Final touches will be given to the road tomorrow with the road likely to be open within a couple of days afterwards," an official said.

The incident took place on what was increasingly becoming a busier road as this was the point where the just-

opened Doha Expressway branches out onto D-Ring Road (past the Khalifa Al-Attiyah interchange/Mamoura signals) and another road linking E-Ring Road, when travelling north-south on the highway.

The stretch also allowed motorists to enter into Abu Hamour, Nuaija, and Al Thumama areas.

The overall road, altogether 4km long, was completed about a year-and-a-half ago by a main contractor for Public Works Authority (Ashghal).

Even after the handover, the contractors successfully oversaw their mandatory 400 days of maintenance of the road.



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