

GENERAL SAFETY MESSAGE

All daily crew team briefings must provide discussion time for the **Top 5 Safety Hazards!**

An **Operational Plan** is not a waste of paper – it contains vital operations and safety information. Keep it in your pocket or field pack. And yes, **know what's in the plan!** The Op Plan could save your life – literally (by using the 206 Medical Plan).

Watch Out Situation #1 Top 5 Hazards:

- **Heat Stress** - review your OSHA Heat Stress Quick Card! If you need an OSHA Card, let us know. Communicate to your co-workers. What City/State were you born in?
- **Hydration** – Stock up on water & Gatorade before hitting the field. Drink Water to Gatorade 3:1 or 2:1 ratios. Limit Caffeine Intake. No Energy Drinks for Field Ops. Be aware - off-duty alcohol consumption can contribute to dehydration.
- **Vehicle Operations (including watercraft – Vessels Of Opportunity ops)** - No cell or texting while driving; quick lane-changers cause hard to avoid accidents – be alert & give space even if you are in the right ! Watercraft field ops: Talk-up Man Overboard actions with the vessel Captain prior to an event where someone goes overboard – **know where your Type IV PFD is stored – see supplemental safety message for more information.**
- **Weather and Lightning** – Have a plan and use the plan - review the Operational Plan weather info. Crew briefings should emphasize pre-planning actions - where to go when lightning is imminent (avoid kiosk and small shelters, they do not provide protection).
- **Oil and Tarball Exposure** - exposure sampling from real time exposure instruments within different response settings (e.g., watercraft based marsh surveys/bird captures, beach oil wash up, etc.) has indicated very little potential for a respiratory hazard.

Watch Out Situation #2 Ensure Proper Work/Rest Requirements Are Followed (promotes safe ops): Work shifts should normally be 12 hours, including meal breaks & transit time to & from lodging. Under unusual circumstances (e.g., you are in the middle of capturing a bird at the 12 hour mark & need more time to affect the capture, hand it off to a rehabber, & return to lodging), up to 16 hours may be worked inclusive of 2 thirty-minute meal breaks and travel time to and from lodging. The 16 hour period must be followed by a mandatory 8 consecutive hours of rest.

Also, Make sure you actually rest and relax when you are on your 2 days off. We are following the 14 days on and 2 days off standard.