

NZ Safety Alert

Let's work together to keep ourselves and our workers safe

June 2019

Beware of sunstrike

If you leave for work or head home at the same time each day you will be aware of the potential for sunstrike. You may also encounter it driving around site. People who drive in the early mornings at this time of year are very aware of what can happen when the driver is momentarily blinded.

You need to be prepared for sunstrike and anticipate its effects, maybe even consider changing the route you drive if that is possible.

Early morning and late afternoons are the highest-risk times when all drivers, pedestrians and cyclists need to be extra cautious. Even if you're not behind the wheel of a car, those who are might not be able to see you.



It's winter. That means slippery roads, foggy mornings, misty windscreens ... and sunstrike.

From 2013 to 2017 there were 141 serious injuries and 639 minor injuries in New Zealand attributed to accidents caused by sunstrike.

You need to ensure that:

1. When driving, make sure you take measures to ensure you can see clearly at all times.
2. Pre-start checks are conducted to ensure windscreens are kept clean, inside and out.
3. Headlights are on during the day, and you keep a good following distance. Sunglasses may also help.
4. Workplace inspections include identification of hazards associated with sunstrike.

Know of an incident or near miss? Please share the learnings with us.