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Media Release

OHSA's Guidance on Working in the Sun and Heat

Persons who work outside are no strangers to the sun and the challenges that come with working in Malta's hot climate. Working outside has numerous risks, including exposure to dangerous UV radiation and excessive heat.

During the month dedicated to melanoma awareness, and with the current increase in temperature and possible heatwave, the Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OHSA) would like to strongly encourage taking all the necessary measures to prevent health problems arising from excess exposure to the sun's rays and heat.

Heat-related illness is preventable and requires the employer's commitment to provide the most effective controls, as identified in risk assessments. The best strategies for working safely outside are avoiding sun exposure and regulating how workers operate in the heat.

Every year, OHSA re-issues its document 'Working in the Sun and Heat' as a guide to dutyholders in identifying the risks associated with this type of work, the measures to be taken as well as information for workers. This guidance document is available in both English and Maltese and can be downloaded free of charge from OHSA's Facebook page or by following these links: English: <u>https://bit.ly/sun_heat_EN</u> and Maltese: <u>https://bit.ly/Xemx_Shana_MT</u>

For further information, one can contact OHSA on tel. 21247677, send an email on <u>ohsa@gov.mt</u> or visit OHSA's Facebook page @ohsamalta

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