

IMPACT OF THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE SAFETY AND HEALTH OF WORKERS

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Consequences of Climate Change in Spain

- The State Meteorological Agency (AEMET) shows that there are already more than 32 million people who suffer directly the consequences of Climate Change and confirms a scenario for Spain with the expansion of semi-arid climates, the lengthening of summers (practically 5 weeks more than at the beginning of the 80s), more days of heat waves and tropical nights and the increase in the Mediterranean surface temperature of 0.34°C per decade.
- In this scenario, large cities and the Mediterranean coast will be the areas where the effects will be particularly intense, which makes them particularly vulnerable environments.



Effects of Climate Change in productive sectors of Spain

- The PESETA report (Projection of economic impacts of climate change in sectors of the European Union based on bottom up analysis) carried out by the Joint Research Center (JRC), in its fourth edition (year 2020), indicates that Spain is among the countries that may suffer the most from the effects of climate change, which may cause a significant impact on basic sectors for the economy, such as **tourism, agriculture, forestry, energy and industrial production**, usually.
 - Many impacts on society and the environment will be related to extreme weather events that are expected to increase considerably, affecting the **transport infrastructure and other infrastructure located in the floodplains of rivers and near the sea**.
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Effects of Climate Change in productive sectors of Spain

- As stated in the National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change 2021–2030, adaptation is a recognized need from perspectives as diverse as ethics, ecology or economics:
 - From the ethical point of view, it is imperative that the public powers assume the protection of citizens, paying special attention to populations and territories that are most vulnerable and exposed to climate change, where its effects are more accentuated and where they have fewer resources for adaptation, avoiding that social inequalities are increasing.
 - From an ecological point of view, it is essential to conserve natural heritage, biodiversity and the ecosystem services that both provide, whose contribution to humans can be eroded by the effects of climate change.
 - On the other hand, the economic impacts that derive from climate change without adaptation responses substantially exceed its costs, which justifies adaptive interventions from an economic perspective.

Effects of Climate Change in productive sectors of Spain

- When considering the relationship between the world of work and climate change, we must take into account at least three key aspects:
 - Jobs generally depend on the services that ecosystems offer. Climate change threatens the provision of many of these vital ecosystem services, thereby jeopardizing the jobs that depend on them.
 - **So much the work itself and safe, healthy and decent working conditions depend on the absence of environmental hazards and the maintenance of environmental stability.**
 - **The risks and dangers associated with environmental degradation tend to affect the most vulnerable workers the most..**



Effects of Climate Change in productive sectors of Spain

- According to the 2018 International Labor Organization (ILO) report “Adaptation to climate change and its impact on employment”, projected increases in temperature will cause the **heat stress is more frequent, which will reduce the total number of working hours in the G20 countries by 1.9% by 2030, with a greater effect on agricultural workers and workers in emerging countries.** Between 2000 and 2015, it is estimated that 23 million years of working life have already been lost per year globally.
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Heat waves

El Confidencial

C

Tribuna

Por Jorge Ojeda Cantos

El calor mata ya mucho más que el frío por la crisis climática

En Europa, entre 1981 y 2016 murieron por calor 84 071 personas, mientras que las víctimas mortales por frío fueron 3 980. Una tendencia que irá en aumento en los próximos años

Primera ola de calor del verano 2021: hasta 46°C el fin de semana

Las zonas más afectadas por el fuerte calor sahariano que amenaza los próximos días.

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OLAS DE CALOR -

“Esta ola de calor es una muestra de lo que vendrá”

Robert Stefanski, experto de la Organización Meteorológica Mundial, alerta de que los episodios de calor extremo en Europa han aumentado en frecuencia e intensidad en los últimos 20 años

2020 fue el año más cálido en España desde que se tienen registros

- Hubo un aumento de la temperatura media de 1,7 grados, según un informe de la Agencia Estatal de Meteorología
- A ese ascenso contribuyeron tres olas de calor, una de las cuales se prolongó durante 9 días, y ninguna ola de frío

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Effects of rising temperatures on workers

- The impacts derived from the increase in temperature put the health of workers at risk. Especially vulnerable are those that **They carry out their workday outdoors (gardening, cleaning, construction, etc.)** and that of those who carry out their work in closed places subjected to high temperatures (such as kitchens, ovens, etc.). All this, together with the mandatory nature of masks (whose use raises body temperature), can worsen previous pathologies (such as heart disease) and increase the chances of suffering accidents at work.



Effects of rising temperatures on workers

- Given this, UGT demands that companies follow the legislation on the prevention of occupational hazards and urges compliance with the intensive summer day, if they have it included in their work calendars or collective agreements. Likewise, workers must be informed about the risks in their jobs, as well as the preventive measures that must be applied.
- Some of them are the use of protection (cap, sunscreen, etc.), which must be provided by the company; hydrate continuously and take breaks in the shade; and reduce exposure to the sun in the hottest hours, adapting working hours to avoid them during the heaviest workload. In addition, companies must adopt measures to guarantee the protection of pregnant workers.

UGT campaign



Las **altas temperaturas**, factor de **riesgo** para la **seguridad y salud** en el **trabajo**

Si la **temperatura corporal** supera los **40,6 grados**, supone la **muerte** hasta en un **25%** de los casos

UGT campaign



Work Inspection Plan to combat risks from heat stroke

- With this plan, the Labor Inspectorate focuses on exposure to high temperatures, a health risk that can sometimes have lethal consequences.
- The Labor Inspectorate sent a mass communication to all companies in the agricultural sector and the construction sector, including temporary agencies and public administrations.
- Around 137,000 letters were sent to companies, with information on the aforementioned plan and the actions of the ITSS. They will provide documentation and information to help the National Institute for Occupational Health Safety.
- The letters warned that breaches of the duty to protect the health and safety of workers may constitute a serious or very serious offense, punishable respectively, with fines ranging from 2,046 euros to 40,985 euros and from 40,986 euros to 819,780 euros. euros.



Work Inspection Plan to combat risks from heat stroke

- From UGT we describe as insufficient the plan of the Labor Inspection against heat stroke.
- We agree with the Ministry that companies must comply with the duty to guarantee the safety and health of workers by Law 31 /1995 and that it is essential to adopt preventive measures by companies in this period of elevated temperatures.
- At UGT we consider that it is necessary to go beyond informing companies of the obligation to comply with the regulations on occupational risk prevention and it is absolutely necessary, **reinforce and provide more human resources to the Labor Inspectorate** because it is the only way to increase the number of scheduled inspection actions and effectively control compliance with regulations.



Filomena

EL PAÍS

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TEMPORAL FILOMENA >

‘Filomena’, cronología de un desastre a cámara lenta en Madrid





Filomena

- In the statistical figures of progress of work accidents, provided by the Ministry of Labor and Social Economy, corresponding to the first quarter of 2021, **A spectacular increase of 95.4% is observed, compared to the same data registered in 2020, in accidents caused by blows with a stationary object, such as falls or trips.**
 - Behind this increase in workplace accidents is the snowy Filomena, which caused numerous slips while going to work.
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Food industry

- Increasingly frequent water scarcity scenarios.
- Analysis of risks associated with the raw material supply chain.
- Loss of soil productivity.
- Introduction of specific measures for the prevention of occupational risks due to high temperatures.



Sector agroalimentario

Automotive industry

- Implementation of adaptation measures related to the protection of occupational health and safety of workers.
- Bet on the production of components and electric vehicles.



Construction and engineering sector

- Prevention of occupational hazards at high temperatures.



Sector construcción e ingeniería

Tourism sector

- Water saving and / or reuse actions in the face of water scarcity scenarios.
- Incorporation of climatic aspects in the prevention and emergency plans of tourist facilities.
- Introduction of specific measures for the prevention of occupational risks due to high temperatures.



Energy sector

- Review of the design standards of energy production facilities to consider new climatic conditions (temperatures, winds, ...).
- Formulation of long-term strategies to respond to climate-related shocks.
- Adaptation of occupational risk prevention management systems to the evolution of the sector.
- Increased research efforts related to weather and climate predictions.



Sector energético



Thank you very much for your
attention

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