



# Weekly Safety Tip

## UV Index

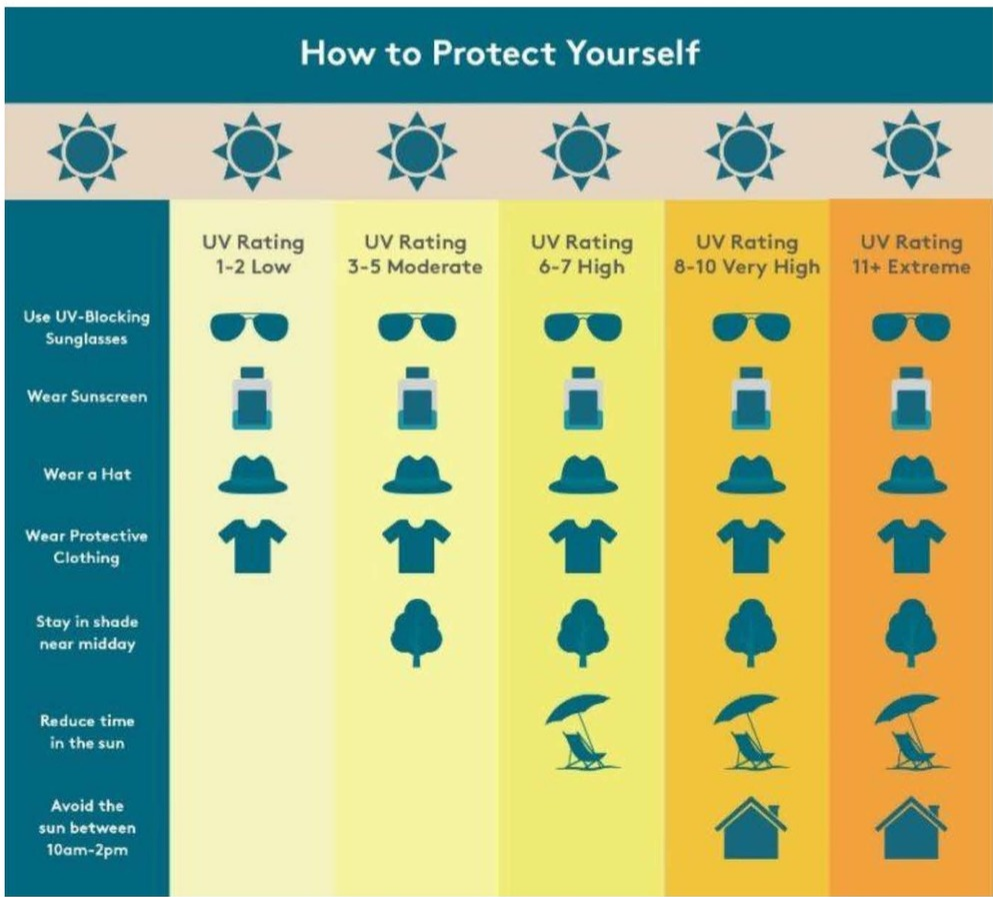


## U V Index



Ultraviolet (UV) radiation is a type of energy produced by the sun and by artificial sources, such as tanning beds. UV radiation is the main cause of melanoma and other skin cancers. The sun's UV rays can reach a person three ways: directly from the sun; scattered from the open sky; and reflected by the environment. **The radiation level depends on a number of factors:**  
**Time of day:** UV radiation level is higher between 10am and 4pm.  
**Season of the year:** UV radiation level is highest in summer.  
**Latitude:** The closer to the equator, the higher the UV radiation levels.  
**Altitude:** The higher the altitude, the higher the UV radiation levels.  
**Cloud cover:** Clouds scatter and reflect UV radiation, so UV radiation level can be high even on a cloudy day.  
**Surface reflection:** Water – sand – snow – pavement scatter & reflect UV, increasing the radiation level.

**The UV Index** was created to help you make informed decisions about how much time you should spend in the sun and what protection you should use. It tells you how strong the sun's UV rays will be. The higher the UV Index, the greater the strength of the sun's UV rays and the faster you may burn.



The index predicts the risk of UV over-exposure on a scale of 0 (minimal risk) to 11+ (very high risk). The forecast considers latitude, elevation, weather conditions, time of year, and the ozone levels in your region, based on a Type 2 Fitzgerald skin type (fair skin, burns easily, tans minimally). The chart above shows the levels of the UV Index and what you should do to protect yourself.

## Weekly Safety Share



### Four of the Biggest OSHA Fines of Q2 2023 Involving Construction



## CONSTRUCTION SAFETY SHARE

### Four of the Biggest OSHA Fines of Q2 2023 involving Construction

From April to June, the agency publicized four construction fines that eclipsed \$100K in initial citation costs. OSHA frequently publicizes cases where inspections result in large fines. The naming of contractors buttresses the agency's efforts to raise awareness of safety standards and to punish companies that don't comply. Often, these citations include small residential builders, usually with a history of repeatedly failing to provide their workers with adequate protection from hazards. Employers tend to negotiate fines down from their initial totals. Here are some of the top fines highlighted by OSHA in the second quarter of 2023:

**R Construction Civil LLC**  
**Fines: \$257,822**  
**Status: Contested**

A federal safety investigation from OSHA alleges R Construction Civil LLC of Buffalo, Texas, repeatedly failed to follow workplace safety procedures during **excavation work**, which ultimately contributed to a worker's death near Manvel, Texas, in October 2022.

According to OSHA, R Construction Civil, a site preparation contractor, allowed **two workers to enter an excavation without sloping or a protective system to prevent the 25-foot trench from collapsing**.

One of the workers became pinned against a mechanical compactor and died when the trench wall caved in.

As a result, OSHA issued two repeat citations, for the employer not providing means to exit the excavation, failing to keep soil piles from the excavation's edge and for using inadequate protection.

OSHA also issued one serious citation, alleging R Construction Civil did not inspect the excavation daily.

**Goldstar Excavation and Sewer**  
**Fines: \$206,698**  
**Status: Contested**

A Keenesburg, Colorado, utilities contractor faces hefty fines for allegedly continuing to **fail to provide workers with proper protection in excavations** one year after a worker fatality, according to OSHA.

On Aug. 13, 2022, a 17-year-old worker employed by Goldstar Excavation and Sewer perished when a large **chunk of asphalt struck them in the head when an unprotected excavation wall caved in**.

A company foreman also sustained injuries, according to OSHA. Following the collapse, the agency proposed \$15,625 in penalties.

In March, a new investigation found a jobsite in Fort Collins, Colorado, had allegedly exposed workers — including the previously injured foreman — to those same hazardous trenching conditions.

As a result, the agency cited the company with two serious, two willful and two repeat violations totaling \$206,698. **OSHA also placed Goldstar in its Severe Violator Enforcement Program**.

Goldstar is contesting saying in a statement that it provided the proper training and protection for an employee who disobeyed direction.

*"The new hire signed and agreed to all safety terms including use of shoring," the statement said. "It was on site, and was available. He got in the hole against company policy and was removed from site immediately and terminated."*



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