

PROTECTING WORKER'S

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KOSHA NEWS

Protecting Worker's Life and Health

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I. “2026 Occupational Safety and Health Month” to Be Held

“Safe at work today, Happier at work tomorrow ”



Occupational Safety and Health Month
2026 Promotional Poster

The Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (hereinafter KOSHA) is gearing up for 2026 「Occupational Safety and Health Month」 (hereinafter OSH Month) this July, under the

theme “Safe at work today, Happier at work tomorrow.”

Held every July under Ministry of Employment and Labor directive, OSH Month is Korea's flagship nationwide campaign for raising public awareness of workplace safety and encouraging voluntary accident prevention across industries. The events are open not just to employers, workers, and safety professionals, but to the general public as well – with both central and regional programs running throughout the month to keep the momentum of safety culture alive across the country.

Central events will run from July 6 to 10 at KINTEX Exhibition Center II in Goyang-si, Gyeonggi Province. Highlights include the OSH Day Commemoration Ceremony, the AI Safety and Health Expo (International Safety and Health Exhibition), seminars, and best

practice presentation contests. At the ceremony, individuals who have made outstanding contributions to industrial accident prevention will be recognized. The occasion will also bring together representatives from labor, management, government, and civil society to renew their shared commitment to workplace safety.

At the exhibition, a wide range of occupational safety and health products and technologies

will be showcased, from traditional personal protective equipment to the latest innovations and advanced technologies.

Regional events follow from the second through the final week of July, spanning seven areas: Seoul, Busan, Gwangju, Daegu, Incheon, Daejeon–Sejong, and Gyeonggi Province. Each region will host its own seminars, presentation contests, and safety culture campaigns.

Source: Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA), Construction Safety Notice, June 2026.

II. Measures Announced to Protect Workers' Health Against Heatwaves in 2026

Treating Heatwaves as a Climate Disaster, Strengthening Workplace Action



The risk of summer heatwaves has been increasing due to the recent climate crisis. Last summer's average temperature was the highest ever recorded since meteorological observations began in 1973, and The Korea Meteorological Administration (hereinafter KMA) has forecast that this summer's average temperature is also

likely to be generally higher than the normal level.

Over the past five years, a total of 228 occupational heat illness cases caused by heatwaves have been reported, increasing every year from 25 cases in 2021 to 71 cases in 2025. By industry, the construction sector accounted

for the largest number, with 106 cases (46.5%), followed by manufacturing with 33 cases (14.5%) and facility management with 23 cases (10.1%).

By workplace size, small workplaces with fewer than 50 employees accounted for 162 cases (71.0%), indicating that they are particularly vulnerable to heatwave-related risks.

Accordingly, the Occupational Safety and Health Act and the Rules on Occupational Safety and Health Standards have been amended to prevent health hazards caused by heatwaves, establishing legal obligations for employers to take health protection measures. Under the revised rules, employers must provide workers with at least 20 minutes of rest every two hours

when work is performed under heatwave conditions with an apparent temperature of 33°C or higher. This year's measures focus on ensuring that these legal requirements are effectively implemented at workplaces.

The five basic heatwave safety rules that must be observed at workplaces are: providing cool water; installing cooling equipment; providing at least 20 minutes of rest every two hours when work is performed under heatwave conditions with an apparent temperature of 33°C or higher; providing cooling protective equipment; and immediately calling 119 emergency services if a worker with heat-related illness or suspected symptoms is unconscious.

Strengthening Tiered Stop-Work Measures in Response to Heatwave Alerts

Following KMA's introduction of a "Serious Heatwave Warning" this year to address extreme heat, The Ministry of Employment and Labor (hereinafter MOEL) plans to further specify stop-

work measures by heatwave alert level and strengthen recommendations for work stoppage at each stage.

Recommended Stop-Work Measures by Heatwave Alert Level

- **Apparent temperature of 33°C or higher**, Heatwave Advisory: Adjust working hours or reduce outdoor work
- **Apparent temperature of 35°C or higher**, Heatwave Warning: Suspend outdoor work during the hottest hours, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Apparent temperature of 38°C or higher**, Serious Heatwave Warning: Suspend outdoor work except for emergency response work

Expanding Financial and Technical Support for Small Workplaces

Financial support for heatwave-vulnerable small workplaces with fewer than 50 employees will be expanded from KRW 20 billion(USD 13.2 million) to KRW 28 billion(USD 18.4 million). In addition, KRW 1.5 billion(USD 1million) will be newly allocated to provide supplies such as apparent temperature meters, cooling kits,

and bottled water. Ongoing patrol inspections of heatwave-vulnerable workplaces will also be carried out through 1,000 KOSHA Worksite Guardians, with 730 assigned to the construction industry, 200 to the manufacturing industry, and 70 to the shipbuilding industry.

Strengthening Protection for Mobile Workers and Migrant Workers

Protection measures will also be implemented for mobile workers and migrant workers, who are particularly vulnerable during the heatwave season. In cooperation with delivery platform companies, the “Deliver While Taking Breaks” campaign will be conducted from June 1 to August 31 to provide mobile workers with

information on rest areas and distribute 500,000 bottles of water. For migrant workers, guidance materials on the five basic heatwave safety rules will be produced and distributed in the native languages of workers from 18 countries, taking language barriers into account.

Source: Ministry of Employment and Labor (MOEL), Announcement of Worker Health Protection Measures Against Heatwaves in 2026, Press Release, May 13, 2026. (For release on May 14, 2026).

III. Safety Management

Activity Level Assessment for Local Public Enterprises Officially Launched

Starting with 32 metropolitan-level institutions this year, to be expanded to 167 local public enterprises in 2027

KOSHA has officially launched the Safety Management Activity Level Assessment for Local Public Enterprises to raise the level of occupational safety and health management across local public enterprises.

The level assessment is a system designed to encourage local public enterprises to voluntarily improve their occupational safety and health standards. Led by MOEL and conducted by KOSHA, the assessment evaluates each institution's safety management system. The results of this year's assessment will be reflected for the first time in the Local Public Enterprise Management Evaluation led by the Ministry of the Interior and Safety.

On April 14, KOSHA visited the Seoul

Transportation Corporation's Gunja Train Depot, held a meeting with on-site management, and announced the full-scale launch of this year's assessment. The 2026 assessment will target 32 large local public enterprises operating at the metropolitan government level, including Seoul Transportation Corporation. Starting with this year's assessment, KOSHA and MOEL plan to expand the scope of the assessment to 167 local public enterprises in 2027.

As the first institution subject to this year's assessment, Seoul Transportation Corporation provides essential public services closely connected to citizens' daily lives. Because the corporation carries out high-risk operations, such as underground train operations, electrical and signaling facility management, and maintenance of aging infrastructure, it requires a high level of safety management capacity to protect both public safety and workers' well-being.

"The level assessment is not merely an administrative inspection, but a process to verify whether on-site activities to protect workers' lives and health are being carried out as planned," emphasized KOSHA President Kim Hyun-joong. "It must serve as a catalyst for substantially enhancing occupational safety and health management capacity."

KOSHA plans to continue carrying out the assessment in a way that reflects the characteristics and responsibilities of each institution.

*** Note: All USD figures are approximate conversions from KRW and are provided for reference only.**

Source: Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA), Full-scale Implementation of the Safety Activity Level Assessment for Local Public Enterprises, Press Release, 14 April 2026.



IV. Clean Workplace Support Program Expanded

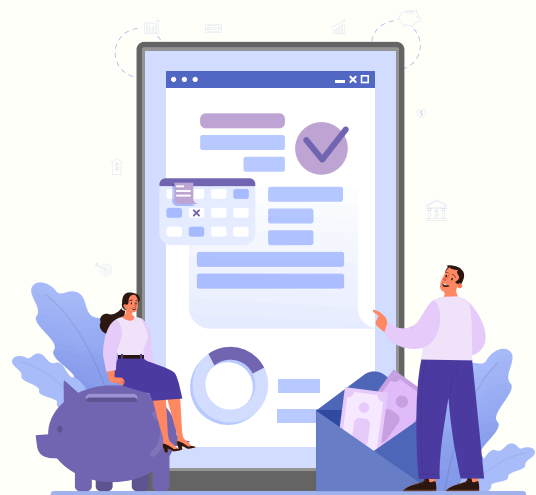
Focused Support for Preventing Falls, Caught-in Accidents, and Struck-by Accidents at Small Workplaces

The MOEL and KOSHA are expanding the Clean Workplace Support Program to reduce industrial accidents at small workplaces.

The “Support Program for Creating Safer Workplaces Tailored to Small Businesses,” implemented as part of the Clean Workplace Support Program, provides financial support for workplaces with fewer than 10 employees and construction sites with a project value of less than KRW 5 billion(USD 3.25million). The program provides financial support for measures to eliminate or reduce workplace hazards related to the prevention of the three major types of accidents: falls, caught-in between accidents, and struck-by accidents.

It covers up to 90 percent of eligible improvement costs, with a maximum support

limit of KRW 30million(USD 19,500) In 2026, a total budget of KRW 43.3 billion(USD 28.5million) has been allocated to expand the scale of support. Eligibility requirements and detailed information are available in the program notices on the KOSHA website, and applications can be submitted online.



Expanding Support Items for Preventing Accidents in Logging Operations

KOSHA is also expanding support items to prevent accidents in logging operations. For forestry businesses with fewer than 50 employees, KOSHA provides financial support for the purchase of specialized personal protective equipment, including safety helmets for forestry work and chainsaw cut-resistant trousers. In addition, 70 percent of rental fees for logging equipment, such as saw grapples and harvesters, will be subsidized through forestry machinery support centers.

"This year, we will focus on financial support

to prevent accidents at small workplaces through the Support Program for Creating Safer Workplaces Tailored to Small Businesses," said KOSHA President Kim Hyun-joong. "In particular, we will proactively identify and support items that help prevent high-risk accidents, including those related to logging operations, to make financial support more effective."

*** Note: All USD figures are approximate conversions from KRW and are provided for reference only.**

Source: Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA), Expansion of the Clean Workplace Support Program for Small Businesses with a Focus on Preventing Falls, Caught-in, and Struck-by Accidents, Press Release, 31 May 2026.

V. Expanding Safety Experience Training for Everyone, from Industrial Worksites to Daily Life

Beyond worker safety, serving as a safety learning center for all citizens



Workers participate in a fall-protection training session

KOSHA is expanding beyond industry-focused safety training to offer hands-on safety experience programs that are closely connected to everyday life and open to the general public. KOSHA provides safety experience training tailored to the characteristics of different industries, including manufacturing, construction, and services, at five locations

nationwide: Incheon, Iksan, Yeosu, Damyang, and Jecheon. Equipped with around 60 state-of-the-art simulation facilities, the safety experience training centers provide more than 30,000 trainees each year with opportunities to experience simulated accident scenarios in a safe environment. The centers offer high-quality training by professional instructors to workers from small and medium-sized enterprises with limited training infrastructure, as well as to any worker in Korea.

Meanwhile, in celebration of Children's Day and Family Month in May, the Incheon Safety Experience Training Center operated a special hands-on program for children and their guardians. The program included everyday safety experiences related to electric shock, static electricity, and fires caused by overcurrent,

as well as simulations of falls, forklift accidents, aerial work platform accidents, and virtual reality-based safety scenarios.

KOSHA is expanding safety training for foreign workers, who are particularly vulnerable to industrial accidents due to language and cultural differences. By providing hands-on experience with machinery and equipment used at industrial worksites, the training helps them better understand safety rules and improve their ability to adapt to workplace environments.

In the middle of June, KOSHA plans to provide safety experience training for overseas Koreans and expand weekend hands-on training programs in cooperation with foreign worker support centers and other related organizations. Through outreach safety experience training conducted in cooperation with relevant institutions, KOSHA plans to continue spreading

a culture of safety beyond industrial worksites and into local communities.

Applications for the experience training can be submitted through the education system of the Occupational Safety Portal. The Incheon Safety Experience Training Center currently operates a Naver reservation service for some weekend programs, and KOSHA plans to expand the service to safety experience training centers nationwide in the future.

"Safety is not limited to specific industrial worksites; it is a value connected to the daily lives of all citizens," said KOSHA President Kim Hyun-joong. *"We will continue to expand hands-on training that is easy to understand and enjoyable, so that everyone can learn and practice safety, and we will work to promote a culture of safety."*

Source: Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA), From Industrial Worksites to Daily Life: Hands-on Safety Experiences for the Whole Family, Press Release, 12 May 2026.

VI. 8th Korean Working Conditions Survey to Be Conducted for Safe and Healthy Workplaces

Household Survey to Cover 50,000 Employed Persons Aged 15 and Older Nationwide from June to October

The Occupational Safety and Health Research Institute (OSHRI) of KOSHA will conduct the 8th Korean Working Conditions Survey over a five-month period from June to October. The survey will cover 50,000 employed persons aged 15 and older nationwide and aims to comprehensively identify their working conditions and levels of safety and health.

The Korean Working Conditions Survey is a nationally approved statistical survey conducted every three years. It has been used as baseline

data for occupational safety and health policy development and research aimed at creating safe and healthy workplaces.

The survey will be conducted through face-to-face interviews during household visits. Major survey items include job characteristics, work intensity, exposure to workplace hazards and risk factors, and work-life balance. The results are scheduled to be released in July 2027 through the Occupational Safety Portal and the Korean Statistical Information Service.

Source: Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA), Conducting the 8th Working Conditions Survey to Promote Safe and Healthy Workplaces, Press Release, 31 May 2026.

VII. SafeBread : Come Home Safe Bread

Three turtle-shaped flavors, inspired by KOSHA mascot Anjeli the turtle spread a safety message beyond the worksite



KOSHA mascot Anjeli the turtle



SafeBread : Come Home Safe Bread

In celebration of Family Month in May, KOSHA has teamed up with Sungsimdang – one of Korea's most beloved bakery brands – to launch "SafeBread," to spread a culture of safety.

SafeBread was born from a simple but powerful wish: that every worker finishes their day and walks back through the front door. The

initiative aims to bring occupational safety out of the worksite and into everyday family life, making it feel personal, not institutional. KOSHA and Sungsimdang co-developed the products together, and they will be available for a limited time at major Sungsimdang locations during Family Month in May and Occupational Safety and Health Month in July.

The bread itself is rooted in Sungsimdang's fan-favorite Melon Turtle Bread, with the turtle shape also serving as a nod to KOSHA's mascot Anjeli the turtle. Each loaf comes topped with a safety helmet-shaped food pick and carries the message: "Safety is the Fastest Way." The line comes in three flavors: melon, strawberry, and mango.

KOSHA President Kim Hyun-joong paid a visit to Sungsimdang to see the launch firsthand and talk through ways to keep the safety culture conversation going. *"SafeBread carries our hope that every family member makes it home safely from work,"* he said. *"We hope it gives people a moment to think about each other's safety – and smile while doing it."*



Kim Hyun Joong, President of KOSHA

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Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency

400 Jongga-ro, Jung-gu, Ulsan,
44429 Republic of Korea

Tel. +82 52 7030 745

Fax. +82 52 7030 326

E-mail. overseas@kosha.or.kr

Web(Kr). www.kosha.or.kr

Web(En). www.kosha.or.kr/english



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