

Chancellor's University Safety Committee (CUSC) Meeting

July 21, 2026 - 3:00-4:00 p.m.

EHS Training Room & Zoom

Agenda

1. Introductions (3:00 – 3:05 p.m.) Rick Campos
2. Old Business
 - A. Scooter Use Subcommittee (3:05 – 3:10) Rick Campos
 - B. University AED Support Subcommittee (3:10 – 3:15 p.m.) Martha Morton
 - C. Other Old Business (3:15 – 3:20 p.m.)
3. New Business
 - A. Emergency Planning & Preparedness (3:20 – 3:25) Abby Schletzbaum
 - B. Resource: Heat Stress (3:25 – 3:40) Jacob Sharrer
 - C. Injury Incident Apr – Jun Report (3:40 – 3:45 p.m.) Elizabeth Howe
 - D. Determine CUSC Goal for 2026-2027 (3:45 – 3:50 p.m.)
 - E. Other new business (3:50 – 4:00 p.m.)
4. Reminder of next meeting & Adjourn Rick Campos

Meeting Schedule for 2026-2027 (EHS training room, Warehouse 1, East Campus and Zoom)

- September 15, 2026, Open Forum
- November 17, 2026 (Injury/Illness report July-September 2026)
- January 19, 2027 (Injury/Illness report September-December 2026)
- March 23, 2027, Open Forum (to occur after university spring break)
- May 18, 2027 (Injury/Illness report January-March 2027)
- July 20, 2027 (Injury/Illness report April-June 2027)

Goal FY 2025-2026:

Develop, review, and maintain lines of safety communication while fostering a culture of safety awareness, where everyone is encouraged to report “near misses” and unsafe practices. Use safety reports as lessons learned to share anonymously throughout the university to prevent reoccurrences/similar incidents.

Chancellor's University Safety Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes – July 21, 2026

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

The July meeting was convened by Chair Rick Campos at 3:02 p.m.

Introduction of Attendees

All attendees introduced themselves by name and the department/facility they represent.

Members In Attendance: Lindsey Chizinski (SNR), Samantha Link (ARD Plant Facility), Mike Livingston (Agronomy & Horticulture), Eileen Bergt (Landscape Services), Xiaoshan Xu (Physics & Astronomy), Jacob Sharrer (HEP), Jon Shields (NE Unions), Deb Royal (VDC), Max Wheeler (College of Engineering), Kyle Hansen (CREC), Sharline Roth (Housing Facilities), Darren Johnson (ENREEC), Zhiguang (Zach) Sun (NCMN), Barb McCain (Housing Dining) Martha Morton (Chemistry), Janelle Stephenson (Sheldon Museum of Art), Sunil Sukumaran (Nutrition & Health Science), Brenda Osthus (EHS) and Elizabeth Howe (EHS – Administrative Support).

Guests: Kim Eischeid (UNMC), Kyle Broderick (Plant Pathology), Randi Houghtelling (NCTA), Eric B. Smith (NTTL)

Old Business

Scooter Use Policy

Rick Campos reported that Max Wheeler did a great job of compiling all the policies from entities across the university system. There are 5 different policies on scooter use and safety across the university system as well as other policies by specific buildings on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus, not all of which have been identified. The CUSC sub-committee will meet in August to come up with a game plan. Part of what the sub-committee will discuss is possible enforcement.

AEDs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Abby Schletzbaum confirmed that there were 80 AEDs listed with Lincoln Fire Department registry as noted in the EHS Safe Operating Procedure, Automatic External Defibrillators. Michael Livingston indicated that he had registered with Lincoln Fire and Rescue but subsequently could not find that the AEDs he registered were listed. Rick Campos suggested that an all-university survey might be in order.

The sub-committee is setting up meetings with a few companies who provide AED units including monthly maintenance packages. Once a vendor has been determined. The committee will write up a proposal to send to the Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance regarding securing AEDs for all University of Nebraska-Lincoln buildings including monthly maintenance with a contract at the university level.

Potentially, given university budget constraints, one approach might be to find a grant source/s and write a grant or grants. Another possibility might be to tap into Endowment funds. One suggestion for implementation at the university level would be to change new building construction/remodeling requirements so that such would need to include AEDs with monthly maintenance requirements in all new and/or remodeled spaces.

Healthier U Wellness Fair October 20 from 8-11 a.m.

In May attendees voted to again participate in the fall Wellness Event at the Coliseum by staffing a booth/table. Elizabeth registered the CUSC last month when the booth request came out. A signup sheet was available at this meeting. Subsequent emails will be sent to allow members not in attendance in person at the July meeting to sign up for a time slot. Two volunteers are needed for each half hour time slot.

Other Old Business

There was no other old business

New Business

Emergency Planning & Preparedness

There was no update as Abby Scheletzbaum was not in attendance.

Heat Stress

Jacob Sharrer talked to the group about heat stress, drawing heavily on the EHS "Heat Stress" Safe Operating Procedure with additional Utilities-specific procedures for dealing with heat stress.

Heat stress can occur working in hot environments, either indoors or outdoors. Some risk factors outdoors are high temperature, humidity, direct sunlight, and low wind speed. Indoors poor ventilation and heat-generating equipment are risk factors. Issues with heat may be exacerbated by physical activity such as lifting, carrying and strenuous work in general. Personal factors such as diabetes, obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, age and certain medication can increase risk.

There are various levels of heat stress. Workers should be aware of the signs and symptoms to watch for, not only in their co-workers but also in themselves, and be prepared to take action to mitigate.

There are a number of things that can be used to prevent heat stress: acclimation by gradual exposure; clothing choices; hydration and avoiding alcohol, coffee, tea and soda pop; taking breaks in shaded or cool areas; communication of hazard alerts; and most importantly education of workers to recognize symptoms and respond appropriately.

Jacob talked briefly about heat index, which is “feels like” temperature. If the air has high humidity the body cannot dissipate sweat, the body’s method of cooling. OSHA-NIOSH has a heat safety tool app. This tool uses heat index and free for download.

Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT), developed by the U.S. military, takes into account factors beyond heat and humidity that are used to develop heat index. WBGT is measured using a specific instrument that Jacob showed and is available in the Utilities plants.

The Utilities department has developed an internal document to assess heat stress and appropriate working times considering the job, environment and persona acclimatization. Clothing and protective equipment is also factored in.

Darren Johnson noted that if instances arise that tours/events that bring outsiders to university property, the possibility of heat stress should be taken into account and education provided to attendees by the event sponsor.

Jacob suggested that departments/facilities might provide regular training about heat stress for their areas.

Volunteers to be a CUSC Meeting Resource

Elizabeth noted that there were no “Resource” volunteers for the rest of the meetings in 2026-2027. Rick Campos volunteered to speak at the next meeting on Fire Extinguishers in response to a question that was recently posed regarding what Class of fire extinguisher is needed in laboratories. Contact ehowe2@unl.edu to volunteer.

Injury Incident Reporting for 4th Quarter 2025-2026

All CUSC members were provided by email prior to the meeting with a report on Severity Total, Event/Exposure by Employment Type and a report detailing all OSHA Recordable Injuries by Employment Type for 4th quarter injury incidents. From April 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026, there were 46 First Reports of Injury (FRIs). 13% were classified as OSHA-Recordable, considered more serious injury incidents. Another 13% of the injury incidents required workers to be off work or resulted in restricted duty for the worker.

Elizabeth suggested to the group that review of OSHA Recordable instances, even of incidents not obviously related to their department's work, could be reviewed to serve as a tool to raise awareness of potential hazards.

There were no questions during the meeting, but subsequent questions may be sent to ehs@unl.edu.

Determination of CUSC Goals for 2026-2027 Year

The current CUSC Goal has been in place for a number of years. Members are asked to evaluate the current goal and be ready to discuss at the next CUSC meeting whether to keep the same goal, revise the current goal, or change the goal entirely for the 2026-2027 year. The current goal is:

Develop, review, and maintain lines of safety communication while fostering a culture of safety awareness, where everyone is encouraged to report "near misses" and unsafe practices. Use safety reports as lessons learned to share anonymously throughout the university to prevent reoccurrences/similar incidents.

Other New Business

University Police asked whether the CUSC would like to provide a staffed booth/table at their September 16 safety fair in the City Union Plaza from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Rick suggested this would be a good opportunity to raise awareness of the CUSC. If you are able to volunteer for one or more half hour slots please contact Elizabeth, ehowe2@unl.edu.

Jacob and Rick are trying to determine a direction for the CUSC and determine a specific Vice Chancellor or other Administrator with whom to work. Once identified, the goal would be for that person to come to one or more CUSC meetings a year and provide input.

Darren Johnson mentioned the value of Hands-On Fire Extinguisher training. Elizabeth reminded the group that EHS provides such training to various departments regularly upon request as well as others of the campus community on a one-off basis.

Janelle Stevenson asked if the CUSC would be the group to ask about how to interact with unhoused issues. The suggestion was to work with UNLPD. Abby Schletzbaum might provide information on this topic at the next regular meeting. Jacob mentioned site security procedures in general. Rick suggested that the Unions had some insight to present. Jacob mentioned that Diane Pinkerton who Janelle replaces was a resource for the CUSC and identified an entire booklet with information on how to deal with various situations at The Sheldon Museum of Art.

Closing Remarks

Rick Campos, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 3:42 pm. The next meeting will be on September 15, 2026.



Heat Stress

Chancellor's University Safety Committee

Jacob Sharrer

What is heat stress and why is it important?

- Heat stress occurs when the body cannot cool itself efficiently, leading to illnesses that range from mild (heat rash) to severe (heat stroke).
- It can affect anyone working in hot environments, both outdoors and indoors (warehouses, kitchens, laundry areas, etc.)

What are the main risk factors for heat stress?

- High temperature, humidity, direct sunlight, and low wind speed. Indoor areas with poor ventilation or heat-generating equipment.
- **Physical activity:** lifting, carrying, or strenuous work increases risk.
- **Personal factors:** diabetes, obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, age, and certain medications (e.g., diuretics)

What signs and symptoms should I watch for?

- **Heat rash:** Small pimples or blisters from sweating.
- **Heat cramps:** Muscle cramps, often in the abdomen, arms, or legs.
- **Heat fainting (syncope):** Dizziness or fainting, especially after standing or sudden movement.
- **Heat exhaustion:** Heavy sweating, weakness, confusion, nausea, clammy skin, muscle cramps, elevated temperature, shallow breathing.
- **Heat stroke:** Body temperature above 104°F, hot/dry skin or profuse sweating, rapid pulse, headache, confusion, loss of consciousness, seizures. Heat stroke is a medical emergency—call 911 immediately

How can heat stress be prevented?

- **Acclimation:** Gradually increase exposure and workload, especially for new or returning employees.
- **Clothing:** Wear light, loose clothing and hats; use cooling PPE if available.
- **Hydration:** Drink 8–16 ounces of water before working in heat; avoid alcohol, coffee, tea, and soda. Employers must provide at least 1 quart of cool water per employee per hour when the heat index is 80°F or more.
- **Rest periods:** Take frequent breaks in shaded or cool areas. When the heat index exceeds 90°F, take a 15-minute break every two hours.
- **Communication:** Maintain frequent two-way communication and issue hazard alerts when the heat index is high.
- **Education:** Train workers to recognize symptoms and respond appropriately. Training should occur at assignment and annually, with refreshers before hot seasons

What should I do if I or a coworker shows signs of heat illness?

- Move to a cool area, rest, and drink fluids.
- For heat cramps or fainting, stop activity and seek medical attention if underlying health conditions exist.
- For heat exhaustion, cool down with a shower or bath and seek medical attention if needed.
- For heat stroke, call 911 immediately, move the person to a cool location, remove excess clothing, wet the body with cool water, and fan.

Heat Index

- The heat index, also known as the "feels like" temperature, measures how hot the air actually feels to the human body when relative humidity is combined with the air temperature. When the air gets hot, your body cools itself by sweating, which pulls heat away as it evaporates .
- If the air is highly humid, it is already saturated with moisture, which slows down the evaporation of your sweat. Because your body cannot efficiently release heat, the surrounding temperature feels significantly higher than what a standard thermometer reads

Wet Bulb Globe Temperature

- Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) a widely used measure of heat stress that accounts for temperature, humidity, wind speed, and solar radiation (sun angle and cloud cover). Developed by the U.S. military to prevent heat casualties, it is now the gold standard for assessing how weather conditions impact the human body during outdoor work and sports.
- Unlike the heat index—which measures heat and humidity in the shade—WBGT captures the direct effects of radiant sunlight and wind on the body's ability to cool itself through sweating

Wet Bulb Globe Temperature vs Heat Index

	WBGT	Heat Index
Measure in the sun	✓	✗
Measured in the shade	✗	✓
Uses temperature	✓	✓
Use relative humidity	✓	✓
Uses wind	✓	✗
Use cloud cover	✓	✗
Uses sun angle	✓	✗

Which is better?

- The **heat index** measures how hot it feels to the human body by combining air temperature and relative humidity, but it is measured strictly in the shade.
- The **wet bulb globe temperature** (WBGT) is a much more comprehensive metric . It measures heat stress in direct sunshine by factoring in air temperature, humidity, wind speed, sun angle, and cloud cover

OSHA-NIOSH Heat Safety Tool App



NOTES:

- Heat index (HI) values were created for shady, light wind conditions, so exposure to full sunshine can increase heat index values by up to 15°F.
- The simplicity of the HI makes it a good option for many outdoor work environments (if no additional radiant heat sources are present, such as, fires or hot machinery). However, if you have the ability, NIOSH recommends using wet bulb globe temperature (WBGT)-based Recommended Exposure Limits (RELs) and Recommended Alert Limits (RALs) in hot environments.
- Use of the HI or WBGT is important, but other factors such as strenuous physical activity also cause heat stress among workers. Employers should have a robust heat stress prevention program that ensures workers are protected.

Heat Stress WBGT Meter

This personal heat stress meter measures temperature, humidity, and direct or radiant sunlight with Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT).

Features

- User-adjustable WBGT audible alarm and the ability to adjust settings for indoor or outdoor measurements.
- Measures ambient temperature, humidity, wet bulb temperature, black globe temperature, WBGT (wet bulb global temperature)
- Black Globe Temperature (TG) monitors the effects of direct solar radiation on an exposed surface
- IN/OUT function displays the WBGT value with or without direct sun exposure
- Multi-line backlit LCD display simultaneously displays 3 measurements
- User-adjustable WBGT threshold alarm (audible)



Now what?

Complete an assessment!

To determine heat stress and the appropriate working times, employees should consider the job, the environment, and their acclimatization:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. First, estimate the workload. | Light, Moderate, or Heavy |
| 2. Next, measure the work area heat using a WBGT instrument or a similar method. | Current WBGT: _____ |
| 3. If wearing clothes or protective equipment that can impair heat dissipation, then add clothing adjustment factors to the measured WBGT. This process yields an "effective WBGT." | Add clothing factor:
WBGT + CF: _____ |
| 4. Determine whether you are acclimatized to heat or not. In general, assume that you are unacclimatized if you have been doing the job for less than 1-2 weeks. | Acclimated
Or Unacclimated |

Clothing adjustment factor

Some clothing or protective gear can prevent heat dissipation, where one can experience an “effective WBGT” that feels warmer than the measured ambient WBGT.



Example

- James is working at the CRES facility cleaning heat-exchanger plates, wearing a **Tyvek suit**. He determines that his workload is **Moderate** based on the activities of cleaning the plates. He samples the area for **WBGT**, and it is **80°F**.
- James **adds** a **clothing adjustment factor** of **1.8°F** to determine the Effective Wet Bulb Temperature.
- James determines that he is **acclimated** since he's been working under similar conditions for weeks.
- $WBGT_{sample} + Clothing\ Factor = Effective\ WBGT$
- $80^{\circ}F + 1.8^{\circ}F = \underline{\underline{81.8^{\circ}F}}$

Heat Stress Work Times

Heat Risk Category		Effective Wet Bulb Globe Temp (°F)	Light (work/rest)	Moderate (work/rest)	Heavy (work/rest)
No Risk	Unacclimated	78 – 79.9	50/10 min	40/20	30/30 min
	Acclimated	78 – 79.9	continuous	continuous	50/10 min
Low	Unacclimated	80 – 84.9	40/20 min	30/30 min	20/40 min
	Acclimated	80 – 84.9	continuous	50/10 min	40/20 min
Moderate	Unacclimated	85 – 87.9	30/30 min	20/40 min	10/50 min
	Acclimated	85 – 87.9	continuous	40/20 min	30/30 min
High	Unacclimated	88 – 90	20/40 min	10/50 min	avoid
	Acclimated	88 – 90	continuous	30/30 min	20/40 min
Extreme	Unacclimated	> 90	10/50 min	avoid	avoid
	Acclimated	> 90	50/10 min	20/40 min	10/50 min

Questions or Comments?



Jacob Sharrer

Training & Safety Coordinator

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

[Husker Energy & Power](#)

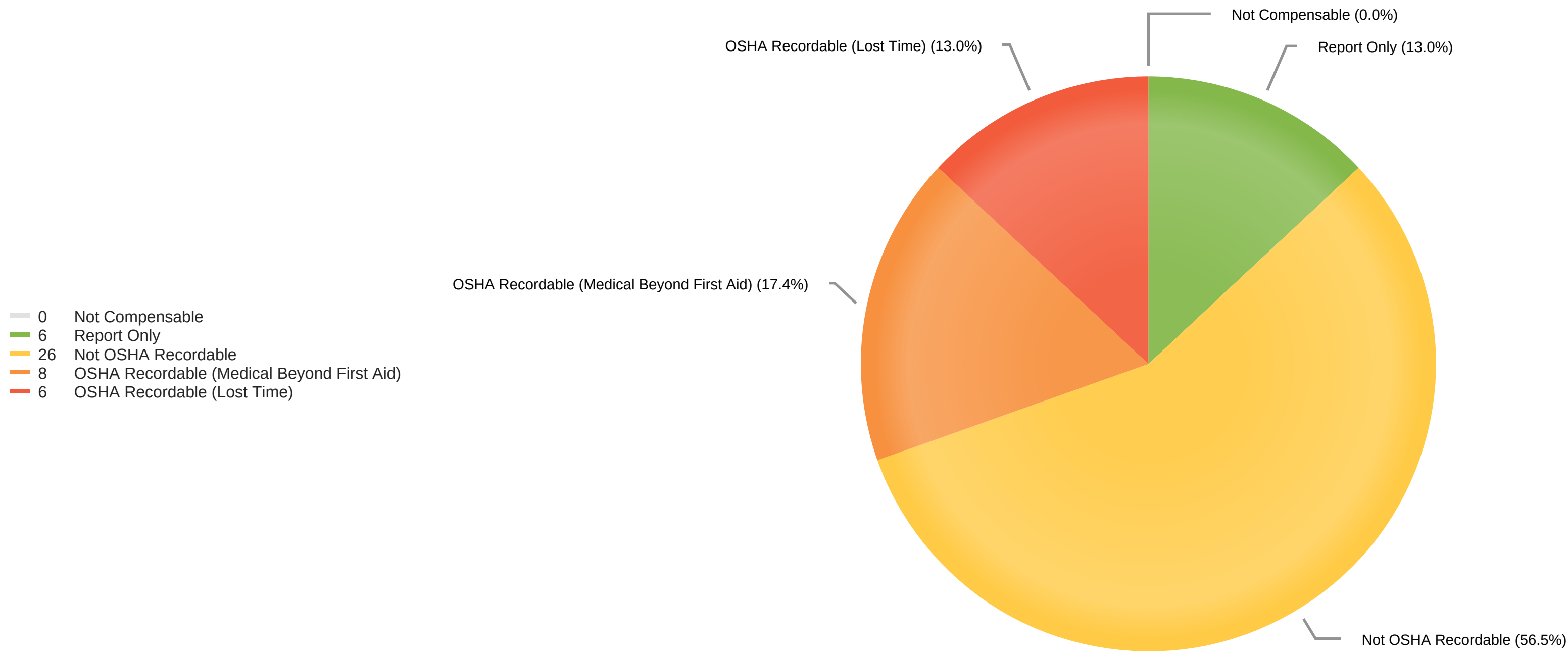
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[402-472-4076](#)

[Schedule a Meeting](#)

Intellection | *Futuristic* | Learner | Ideation | Input

Severity (Total : 46)
Start Date: 4/1/2026 - Stop Date: 6/30/2026



Event/Exposure By Employment Type
Start Date: 4/1/2026 - Stop Date: 6/30/2026

