

Chapter 6

An Emergency in the Field



Because of his bad eyesight, it took time for Rafael to locate the woman, Marta Arroyo. Meanwhile, other workers had run to help. Near Marta, they found her fifty-four-year-old mother, Inez, lying in the dirt. Fortunately, she was still breathing.

Someone found an umbrella to shade Inez from the sun. Marta removed the scarf from her mother's face and her heavy outer clothing. Two other people tried to fan Inez. Another person ran for ice packs to put on her neck, back, and under her arms. Someone else applied a wet sponge to her skin. Still, Inez remained unconscious.

This was an emergency situation, so Rafael immediately called 911. He told the operator about Inez's symptoms. Within minutes, an ambulance was on the scene. Inez needed to be transported to a hospital right away. After all, heatstroke can be fatal. While the emergency medical technicians were moving Inez into the ambulance, Marta looked angrily at Rafael. "Where were you?" she asked, tears streaming from her eyes. "You're the boss here, aren't you?"



"Sorry," said Rafael, looking down at the ground. "My vision is weak. I didn't notice her."

"But it's your job to notice," she said. "You're supposed to protect the workers."

"I told her—and all of you—many times to take water breaks and sit in the shade," replied Rafael.

"Well," said Marta, still sobbing uncontrollably, "as a foreman you need to pay more attention. If my mother dies," she said, getting into the ambulance, "then it's *your* fault."

Answer the questions.

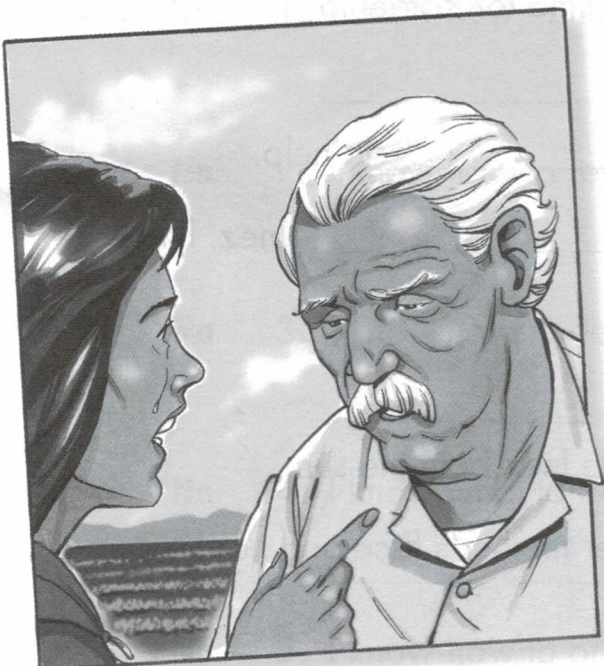
1. Why did it take time for Rafael to locate the woman, Marta Arroyo?
2. Meanwhile, what had other workers done?
3. Who did they find near Marta? Where was she lying?
4. What was she fortunately still doing?
5. What did someone find to shade Inez from the sun?
6. What items did Marta remove? What did two other people try to do?
7. Where did they put the ice packs? What did someone else apply to her skin?
8. How did Inez remain? What did Rafael immediately call?
9. What did Rafael tell the operator about?
10. When was an ambulance on the scene?
11. Where did Inez need to be transported right away?
12. Who moved Inez into the ambulance?

ice packs
situation
umbrella

This was an emergency _____, so Rafael immediately called 911. He told the operator about Inez's _____. Within minutes, an _____ was on the _____. Inez needed to be transported to a hospital right away. After all, _____ can be fatal. While the emergency medical _____ were moving Inez into the ambulance, Marta looked angrily at Rafael.

A Conversation by the Ambulance

Practice the dialog with a partner.



- A. I feel terrible about your mother.
- B. Where were you? You're the boss here, aren't you?
- A. Sorry. My vision is weak. I didn't notice her.
- B. But it's your job to notice.
- A. I just couldn't see her from that distance.
- B. You're supposed to protect your workers.
- A. I told her—and all of you—many times to take water breaks and sit in the shade.
- B. Well, as a foreman you need to pay more attention. If my mother dies, then it's *your* fault.

Check the good ideas.

You want to avoid getting heatstroke. Check (✓) the things that are good to do.

Write other ideas on the lines below.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> drink a lot of fluids | <input type="checkbox"/> wear loose or lightweight clothing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cool off with a fan | <input type="checkbox"/> rehydrate yourself frequently |
| <input type="checkbox"/> spray yourself with water | <input type="checkbox"/> go to an air-conditioned area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> work hard in the direct sunlight | <input type="checkbox"/> drink sugary or alcoholic drinks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> work in the shade if possible | <input type="checkbox"/> rest under an umbrella |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sit for a long time in a parked car | <input type="checkbox"/> pay attention to symptoms |
-
-

Listening

Listen to the sentences. Write the missing words.

1. Because of his bad _____, it took time for Rafael to _____ the woman.
2. _____, other workers had _____ to help.
3. Near Marta, they found her fifty-four-year-old _____, Inez, lying in the _____.
4. Fortunately, she was still _____.
5. Someone found an _____ to shade Inez from the sun.
6. Marta removed the _____ from her mother's face and her heavy _____ clothing.
7. Two other _____ tried to _____ Inez.
8. Another person ran for _____ packs to put on her _____, back, and under her arms.
9. Someone else _____ a wet _____ to her skin.
10. Still, Inez remained _____.

Pronunciation

Check (✓) *d*, *t*, or *id* to show the pronunciation of the final sound in the past-tense verbs below.

	d	t	id		d	t	id
1. streamed	_____	_____	_____	6. fanned	_____	_____	_____
2. protected	_____	_____	_____	7. remained	_____	_____	_____
3. breathed	_____	_____	_____	8. applied	_____	_____	_____
4. noticed	_____	_____	_____	9. shaded	_____	_____	_____
5. sobbed	_____	_____	_____	10. looked	_____	_____	_____

What about you?

Circle **Yes** or **No**. Then write questions and ask your partner.

Yes **No** 1. I know how to help in an emergency situation.

Yes **No** 2. I know how to report an emergency to a 911 operator.

Yes **No** 3. I know how to describe the symptoms of a sick or injured person.

Yes **No** 4. I know what to do when someone is unconscious from heatstroke.

Yes **No** 5. I know how to prevent heatstroke.

Yes **No** 6. I know that heatstroke can be fatal.

Yes **No** 7. I have ice packs in my home for emergencies.

Topics for Discussion or Writing

1. In what kinds of emergencies should people call 911?
2. What are bosses responsible for at work? What things can they do to protect their workers from illness or accidents?
3. Do you think Rafael's weak vision is a good excuse for not noticing Inez Arroyo in the field? Explain why or why not.