

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

455 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE, 10TH FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3677
(415) 703-5050 FAX: (415) 703-5059



ADDRESS REPLY TO:
PO BOX 420603
SAN FRANCISCO 94142-0603

July 9, 2008

With temperatures rising around the state, heat and the injuries it can cause have moved to the forefront of the public consciousness. In an effort to combat the problem of heat stress injuries in California, Cal/OSHA, California Department of Industrial Relations, and the undersigned California agricultural organizations are sponsoring a program called "Heat Stress Prevention in Agriculture." While many efforts have been focusing on growers as well as contractors, this program will be a joint effort specifically to train Farm Labor Contractors (FLCs) about the dangers of heat related injuries and how heat injuries can be prevented.

The goal of this program is to ensure that all FLCs understand the regulations and the urgency of training their crew bosses about heat stress prevention and its dangers. The crew bosses will then pass the information to the people they oversee and make sure that all of their workers are fully protected as required by law. The program will encompass the four elements of heat stress programs: provision and encouraging the drinking of plenty of cool water, ready access to shade, full and complete training, and written procedures spelling out the essentials. The program will teach FLCs the importance of heat stress prevention and make sure they understand the consequences of not following the law.

At the completion of the program, FLCs will receive proof of completion. Ag groups will strongly encourage anyone using the services of FLCs to ask for this proof of completion of the heat stress program. While not a legal requirement, we believe that farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers may consider whether an FLC has completed this program in making their hiring decision.

This program is not a substitute for any of the State training required to obtain or maintain an FLC license under the law, and cannot be used to meet any of those training requirements. However, we strongly believe it is a necessary addition to ensure that all FLC workers will be safe from the heat.

Many heat stress injuries are preventable injuries. Therefore, as summer begins, we must all be vigilant in monitoring the conditions that can lead to heat stress. Participation in this program is the first step to ensuring a safe and healthy workplace.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. The following dates and locations are attached.

Agricultural Organizations:

California Citrus Mutual	Cal.Cotton Ginners and Growers Assoc.
California Dairy Campaign	California Farm Bureau Federation
California Farm Labor Contractor Alliance	California Grape and Tree Fruit League
Fresno County Farm Bureau	Kern County Farm Bureau
Merced County Farm Bureau	Napa County Farm Bureau
Nisei Farmers League	Raisin Bargaining Association
Tulare County Farm Bureau	Ventura County Agricultural Association
Western Pistachio Association	

Att

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Dear Farm Labor Contractors:

I want to thank our friends in the agricultural industry for providing Cal/OSHA the opportunity to provide valuable information to you, the Farm Labor Contractor community, of the steps you can take to prevent heat illness at your jobsite.

The locations and dates for training sessions are listed below. Please note that each session will begin at 1 PM and conclude at 5 PM. The training will be provided in Spanish from 1 PM to 3PM, and repeated in English from 3 PM to 5 PM.

- Fresno Thursday, July 10
- Coachella Thursday, July 17
- Imperial Friday, July 18
- Sacramento Wednesday, July 23
- Bakersfield Wednesday, July 23
- Salinas Thursday, July 24
- Napa Wednesday, July 30
- Stockton Wednesday, July 30
- Exeter Thursday, July 31
- Ventura Tuesday, August 5
- Tulare/Kings Tuesday, August 5
- Merced/Modesto Wednesday, August 6
- Five Points/Kerman Thursday, August 7

We look forward to seeing you at the training location most convenient to you.

Sincerely,

John Duncan