

Heat illness: Cal/OSHA steps up enforcement

So far this year, Cal/OSHA has conducted 1,298 heat illness inspections in outdoor industries compared to 1,018 for all of last year, the Agency announced recently. Also, more than 347 citations for heat illness prevention violations have been issued and there are many cases still open that will result in more violations, Cal/OSHA says.

“California is the first state in the nation to have regulations to protect outdoor workers from exposure to heat. We have done an extraordinary job in raising awareness of what heat illness is and in ensuring that outdoor employers are trained to detect and respond to heat illness,” said John Duncan, Director of the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR).

“We have a zero tolerance when it comes to failure to protect your workers from workplace hazards, which includes the summer heat for outdoor workers,” added Len Welsh, Cal/OSHA chief. “Our actions taken since the heat illness protection law became effective reveal this and our efforts are only intensifying.”

In addition to the enforcement activities, Cal/OSHA has conducted more than 649 heat illness seminars, onsite consultations, and outreach events throughout the state this year. Growers and Cal/OSHA continue to host supplemental heat illness training sessions for farm labor contractors statewide.