

***Nisei Farmers League, California Grape and Tree Fruit League, California Cotton Ginnery and Growers Associations, Fresno County Farm Bureau***

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**For immediate release**

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**Media Advisory**

**News Conference to announce the 2009 Heat Illness  
Prevention Training Sessions for Agriculture**

**Wednesday, March 18**

**9:30 a.m.**

**C.P.D.E.S Hall,**

**172 W. Jefferson Ave. Easton**

*Note: At the announcement, shade structures will be demonstrated to show examples of what are needed to comply with the law. Bilingual Spanish speakers will be available for interviews.*

Representatives of the California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR), Cal OSHA, farm labor contractors and several local and state agricultural organizations will announce the 2009 schedule of Heat Illness Prevention Training Sessions for Agriculture at a news conference on March 18 at 9:30 at the C.P.D.E.S Hall, 172 W. Jefferson Ave. in Easton.

The news conference will be held in conjunction with the first class sessions to be held at the Hall on March 18. The grower session will be held from 8-to-9:30 a.m. The Spanish session will be held from 10-to-11:30 a.m., and a Farm Labor Contractor's session presented in English will be from 1-to-2:30 p.m.

The Nisei Farmers League, California Grape and Tree Fruit League, California Cotton Ginnery and Growers Associations, Fresno County Farm Bureau and other agricultural organizations are sponsoring the series of seminars, which are planned throughout the state during March and April. The seminars are targeted to farm labor contractors, field supervisors and growers. The purpose is to reduce the problems of heat illness injuries in agriculture by training participants about the dangers of heat-related injuries and how heat injuries can be prevented.

This joint effort was formed last year to educate growers, farm labor contractors and field supervisors about the dangers of heat related injuries and how heat injuries can be prevented. The goal of this program is to ensure that all agricultural employers understand Regulation 3395 (Schwarzenegger, 2005) and the urgency of training their employees about heat stress and its dangers. Trained participants are expected to pass the information on to the individuals they supervise.

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The program will encompass the four elements of heat illness prevention programs: provision and encouraging the drinking of plenty of cool water; ready access to shade; full and complete training; and written procedures identifying the essentials of the business' heat illness prevention program. Also included are new guidelines developed by Cal OSHA regarding the temperature at which shade must be provided and other clarifications regarding Regulation 3395. The program will teach employers the importance of heat stress prevention and make sure they understand the consequences and intent of the law.

### **Background**

The 2008 Heat Stress Prevention in Agriculture training sessions were a collaborative effort between DIR, Cal OSHA, and agricultural organizations to train Farm Labor Contractors (FLCs) about the importance of heat illness prevention. These sessions took place over a two-month period and allowed for dialogue to occur between employers and Cal OSHA personnel.

Seventeen agricultural organizations signed on in support of the program: California Citrus Mutual, California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association, California Dairy Campaign, California Farm Bureau Federation, California Farm Labor Contractor Alliance, California Grape and Tree Fruit League, Fresno County Farm Bureau, Grower-Shipper Association of Santa Barbara & San Luis Obispo Counties, Grower-Shipper Association of Central California, 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, and Western Pistachio Association. Many other organizations provided heat stress training outside of this program.

### Highlights from the 2008 Sessions

- Cal OSHA, DIR, and 17 agricultural organizations participated.
- Sessions were hosted at 18 different locations with a total of 19 sessions in both English and Spanish.
- Sessions were held from July 10 and September 6, 2008, during weekdays and weekends.
- 389 FLCs participated; 868 total agriculturally-related participants. Together these contractors employed over 205,897 people in 2008.

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