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State of California

# DWCNewsline

Division of Workers' Compensation  
Carrie Nevans, Acting Administrative Director

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1515 Clay Street, 17<sup>th</sup> floor, Oakland, CA 94612 (510) 286--7100

Internet Web Page: <http://www.dir.ca.gov>

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## **State Division of Workers' Compensation holds free Spanish-language seminar tonight in Fresno Cal/OSHA will also advise employees about preventing heat illness**

**Oakland** – The California Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) will conduct a free Spanish-language seminar on workers' compensation benefits and laws for employees in Fresno this evening, from 6-7 p.m. at the central branch of the Fresno County Public Library. A representative from Cal/OSHA will also be present to discuss heat illness prevention.

“Teaming up with Cal/OSHA to reach out to Fresno area employees makes sense,” said DWC Acting Administrative Director Carrie Nevans. “The summer temperatures can leave workers here vulnerable to heat-related illnesses. We want to make sure they understand their rights under the state’s safety and workers’ compensation laws.”

The seminar is open to all employees and will be held:

**Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2006**

**6-7 p.m.**

**Fresno County Public Library**

**Central Branch**

**Sarah E. McCardle Community Service Room**

**2420 Mariposa Street**

**Fresno, CA**

At the seminar employees will learn about their right to medical treatment, disability payments, returning to work after an injury and resolving a disagreement over a claim. They will also get advice from Cal/OSHA about how to prevent heat related illness and their rights under Cal/OSHA’s new heat illness rules. The program consists of a presentation followed by a question and answer session.

“Heat illness contributed to 13 work-related deaths in 2005,” said Cal/OSHA Chief Vicky Heza. “However, heat illness is preventable.”

Cal/OSHA’s new rules require employers to take four basic steps to prevent heat illness:

- Train all employees about the dangers and prevention
- Provide enough fresh water so that each employee can drink at least one quart per hour and encourage them to do so
- Provide access to shade for at least five minutes of rest when an employee believes he or she needs a preventative recovery period
- Develop and implement written procedures for complying with the heat illness prevention standard.

The DWC conducts English-language seminars for injured workers on a monthly basis at each of its 24 local offices and last year began hosting Spanish-language seminars in different locations around the state.

A listing of workshop days, times and locations in English and Spanish can be found on DWC's Web site at [www.dir.ca.gov/dwc](http://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc). Click on the link that says, "Injured on the job? Need to know your rights?" Injured workers can also call 1-800-736-7401 to find the workshop near them and hear other recorded information. To go directly to workshop locations in English, callers should press 7, then 7 again, then 1 after dialing the 800 number. Spanish-speaking workers may call 1-800-736-7401 and press 2 for details.

The division has also produced posters and flyers in English and Spanish to promote the workshops. Community based organizations and others who'd like to obtain those materials may call 510.286.7076.

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