



MEMO

DATE: September 1, 2022
TO: Agricultural Employers
FROM: Ed Williams, Agricultural Commissioner *E.W. by K. Bell*
SUBJECT: Heat Illness Prevention

The Ventura County Department of Agriculture/Weights & Measures is reminding all agricultural employers to be prepared to protect outdoor workers from heat illness during the extended heat wave, predicted to continue through Monday, September 5th.

According to Cal/OSHA, employers with outdoor workers must take the following steps to prevent heat illness:

- Plan – Develop and implement an effective written heat illness prevention plan that includes emergency response procedures.
- Training – Train all employees and supervisors on heat illness prevention.
- Water – Provide drinking water that is fresh, pure, suitably cool and free of charge so that each worker can drink at least 1 quart per hour, and *encourage workers to do so*.
- Rest – Encourage workers to take a cool-down rest in the shade for at least five minutes when they feel the need to do so to protect themselves from overheating. *Workers should not wait until they feel sick to cool down.*
- Shade – Provide proper shade when temperatures exceed 80 degrees. Workers have the right to request and be provided shade to cool off at any time.

Details on heat illness prevention requirements and training materials are available online on Cal/OSHA's [Heat Illness Prevention web page](#) and the 99calor.org informational website. A [Heat Illness Prevention online tool](#) is also available on Cal/OSHA's website. Employers and workers who have questions or need assistance with workplace health and safety programs can call [Cal/OSHA's Consultation Services Branch](#) at 800-963-9424. Complaints about workplace safety and health hazards can be filed confidentially with [Cal/OSHA district offices](#).