

Heat Illness Prevention Project

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Background

- What is heat illness?
- 2006: California heat illness prevention standard
- Statewide campaign: **Water, Rest, & Shade**
- May 2015: Cal/OSHA revises the standard



The Abatement Industry

LiUNA Local 67 represents lead, asbestos, and mold abatement workers throughout Northern California.

- Heavy use of PPE
- Strict containment protocols
- Indoor & outdoor worksites



Bilingual signs indicate presence of asbestos at a job site

The Abatement Industry



Containment Process



3 Stage Decontamination



Personal Protective Equipment: Respirator, Tyvek suit, gloves

Objectives

- Attitudes regarding heat hazards
- Knowledge of signs and symptoms
- Behaviors & barriers related to prevention
- Knowledge of Cal/OSHA standard and rights and responsibilities



Local 67 Union Reps survey a containment area at a job site

Methods

- Conducted formative research
- Developed and administered bilingual mixed methods survey
- Developed "give back" training and educational materials



Aillen and Mara try on PPE used by abatement workers




Local 67 van

Job Sites Visited



Touring a completed asbestos abatement job in an elementary school




Workers use scaffolding to remove a pipe containing asbestos




Interviewing workers doing lead paint removal at our first job site visit

Preliminary Results

Visited **10** unique worksites
 Visited **2** union training facilities
 Collected **31** worker surveys
 Collected **6** supervisor surveys



Lead paint removal abatement job site



LIUNA's training center in San Ramon, California

Preliminary Worker Results

Attitudes, Knowledge, & Experience Related to Heat

- **97%** agree that heat is a hazard
- **1/3** could not name three symptoms of heat illness
- **90%** had worked in hot conditions
 Of these, **86%** had experienced at least one symptom of heat-related illness

Preliminary Worker Results

Knowledge and Perception of the Cal/OSHA Heat Illness Prevention Standard

- **Half** were aware of some workplace H&S regulation regarding heat
 - Of these, just **1/3** could identify three rights
- **35%** reported that they had never received training on heat illness prevention

Preliminary Worker Results

Current Job Site Experience:

- Workers reported having easy access to water, rest, & shade.

General Experience:

- Water: ~40% had a barrier to drinking water
- Rest: ~40% had a barrier to cooling breaks
- Shade: At some worksites employers provide tents for shade, but at others workers need to find shade themselves.

Preliminary Worker Results

What prevents workers from drinking water?

- Issues with decontamination
- Issues with PPE
- Issues with water access and quality
- Work environment and workload

Preliminary Supervisor Results

All supervisors surveyed:

- Reported being in charge of making water, rest, and shade available to workers.
- Had conducted a heat illness prevention training with a crew they supervised.
- Were aware of an acclimatization plan or practice at their site.

Limitations



Allen interviews a group of workers

- Short timeline during busy season
- Unable to pilot survey
- Sample is limited

Successes

- 10 unique job sites
- Made important connections with union representatives
- OHIP project could be expanded next summer



Allen with Abraham Parra, Local 67 Union Rep, at SFO.

Recommendations

- Additional research needed (non-union workers)
- Additional trainings (symptoms and rights)
- Fed OSHA should adopt a Heat Illness Prevention Standard.



An interactive training program we developed for the union as an additional resource on heat illness

Reflections



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