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Visit the LOSH website:

losh.ucla.edu

Visit our website to view recent LOSH news, project updates, and upcoming LOSH training and events.

Our website also provides downloadable occupational health & safety fact sheets and curricula, as well as bilingual (English-Spanish) educational resources.

Water, Rest, and Shade: Preventing Heat Illness in Southern California

UCLA-LOSH led a Southern California education campaign this summer to prevent heat-related deaths and illness among agricultural, construction, landscape and other workers. Cal/OSHA's heat regulation, the result of a years-long campaign and the only such regulation in the country, requires employers to provide water, rest and shade in order to prevent heat illness.

Working with leaders from community and labor groups, religious and health organizations, government agencies and indigenous groups, LOSH trained 159 heat awareness trainers from 70 organizations in five Spanish-language Train the Trainer (TOT) courses throughout SoCal. "It's inspiring to see what you all do working together to reach the community," asserted Jordan Barab, OSHA Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor and a guest of LOSH at the first TOT. "We want to adopt this model throughout the country."

The trainers held workshops and tailgate meetings and they distributed heat education materials at workplaces, community meetings, job centers and health fairs. A staff trainer from the Confia en Ti Program was enthusiastic about his experience teaching agricultural, construction and gardening workers about their rights and responsibilities. "The workers were very attentive and engaged.



Heat Awareness Trainers Practice with Training Guide

It was a good day to offer the training – it was 100 degrees Fahrenheit and they wanted to know all about heat!" In Ventura, trainers educated agricultural workers at a large community meeting for 250-300 indigenous Mixteco workers and their families. And Los Angeles trainers reached more than 200 day laborers, gardeners and construction workers at 5 different community job centers.

LOSH partnered with Cal/OSHA to train staff and volunteers from the LA Mexican Consulate and EMPLEO call center who respond to hotline calls about heat. They have since implemented a heat call tracking system and designated a staff person to train and update volunteers. LOSH staff also trained worker leaders that oversee maintenance, transportation and grounds work for school districts. "I learned crucial information about heat illness. I did not know California had a law about this or the full extent of heat illness. I'm thinking about steps to implement at my school," commented a staff member from Watts Learning Center Charter Middle School.

With funding from California's Department of Industrial Relations, LOSH will continue into next summer to collaborate with the many inspired worker and community leaders whose motivation and hard work made the 2011 Heat Illness Prevention Campaign a success.

OSHA Listens: Latino Worker Health & Safety Forum



LOSH Director Linda Delp and SoCalCOSH Coordinator Shirley Alvarado-del Aguila with CalOSHA Chief Ellen Widess and Staff

Cal-OSHA Chief Ellen Widess was a featured speaker at the Southern California Latino Worker Health & Safety Forum, the first time worker health and safety was part of the annual Mexican Consulate Labor Rights Week of activities leading up to Labor Day. Juan Marcos Gutierrez, the L.A. Mexican Consul General, welcomed 100 warehouse, meatpacking, hotel, car wash, domestic and construction workers, along with staff from worker-advocacy groups and government agencies. Ken Atha, Regional OSHA Administrator, and Maria Elena Durazo, head of the L.A. County Federation of Labor, provided a context for the event, which built on last year's national

summit initiated by Secretary of Labor Solis to highlight the disproportionate rate of work-related injuries and illness among Latino workers.

Widess and Atha listened as workers passionately described warehouse employers' reprisals, domestic workers' lack of training and protective equipment, and hotel workers' back injuries from heavy workloads. They discussed the multiple challenges they confront in their efforts to improve working conditions - exclusion from Cal/OSHA oversight, language, cultural and legal barriers, and temporary and contingent employment structures. Widess committed to meet on a quarterly basis with SoCal worker-leaders to discuss how Cal/OSHA can more effectively respond to immigrant workers.

Workshops and educational skits on chemicals, heat, machine safety and other key issues were led by worker-leaders who recently graduated from a week-long UCLA-LOSH Train the Trainer course. An afternoon session provided workers and government agency representatives with the opportunity for questions and dialogue.

The Forum represented the culmination of months of planning. LOSH staff collaborated with local partners from SoCalCOSH, the CLEAN Carwash Campaign, IDEPSCA, NDLO, and the Warehouse Workers United to organize the event, which was covered by La Opinion, Telemundo 52, and other Spanish-language media.

NIOSH Highlights Disparities

LOSH staff Linda Delp and Kevin Riley shared SoCal experiences as contributors to papers for the first national conference on "Eliminating Health and Safety Disparities at Work" organized by NIOSH and NIEHS. Sherry Baron from NIOSH summarized the many challenges low wage workers face on a daily basis – high hazard jobs and lack of health benefits; job insecurity;

unemployment; and environmental assaults from multiple sources. A proposed Environmental Justice strategic plan integrates themes from the conference to create a comprehensive view of the environment that includes workplace as well as community exposures. The conference papers are available at: <http://www.aocdata.org/conferences/healthdisparities/synopses.html>

Good, Green, Safe Jobs & the Environment

"Environment refers to the biological, physical and social things on earth – it's the whole planet and it's our own neighborhoods," stated Jakarr Lewis from this fall's Minority Worker Training Program. Coordinated by LOSH staff Samantha Quintero, LOSH courses prepare workers for green jobs and teach critical thinking skills to analyze workplace and community hazards. Local groups host a tour for workers to explore firsthand the disparities in LA – the refinery and other emissions that disproportionately expose poor communities of color and the parks and trees disproportionately located in wealthier communities. Instructors encourage workers to link with local environmental justice groups and to work for a safer environment at work, home and in the community.



Workers Discuss and Draw the Environment in the MWTP Course

Interns Advocate for Worker Health in SoCal and Beyond



OHIP Intern Aditi Ananth Interviews Worker at LA Rally

In June UCLA-LOSH hosted a national orientation for 28 students in this year's Occupational Health Internship Program (OHIP). Students from California, Chicago, Boston, New York, and the Pacific Northwest converged in Los Angeles to learn principles of occupational health and techniques to research workplace hazards and create worker educational materials. They learned firsthand about working conditions through dialogue with warehouse, grocery, and carwash workers, and they visited a large garment manufacturer, an industrial laundry, and a hazardous materials handling facility before returning to their home sites, newly motivated to initiate their own projects.

In the Los Angeles area, eight interns contributed to some of the most exciting campaigns in Southern California.

Safer and Stronger



Linda Delp with Panelists Thom Davis (IATSE Local 80), David Huerta (USWW), Lorena Lopez (UNITE-HERE Local 11) and Rick Albis (USW Local 675)

"Safe Workplaces, Strong Unions" was the theme of a conference held in September that brought together 90 labor leaders from key sectors in LA - entertainment, ports, janitorial, telecommunications, hotel, health care and refinery industries; school districts, city, and county governments. Sponsored by the LA County Federation

of Labor and UCLA-LOSH, Maria Elena Durazo and other speakers highlighted the critical role of labor – historically and currently – to improve workplace health and safety conditions. Linda Delp, UCLA-LOSH Director, highlighted California's past and "the notorious case of sterility caused by the pesticide DBCP, which triggered the national Right to Know movement. We're the only state with regulations to prevent heat illness and repetitive motion injuries – because of worker advocacy. But we need stronger regulations and informed workers."

With funding from an OSHA Harwood grant, UCLA-LOSH hired Tanya Akel and partnered with the Labor Federation to hire Andrea Nicholls, new Health and Safety Coordinator at the Federation. "I'm excited to motivate and support our local union affiliates to integrate worker health into campaigns. Today, people heard from union and government representatives including Cal/OSHA Chief Ellen Widess, and learned about strategies to take action for safer workplaces." LOSH is also partnering with the Orange County Federation of Labor to hold a worker health and safety leadership course later this year.



2011 OHIP Interns and Staff

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Newsletter

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The **UCLA Labor Occupational Safety and Health (LOSH) Program** is a nationally recognized center with a special emphasis on serving the Southern California workforce. LOSH provides bi-lingual (English-Spanish) occupational health and safety education programs in the community; teaches UCLA courses; researches the conditions of immigrant, low-wage and young workers who are disproportionately impacted by job hazards; and provides input into public policies to improve worker health and safety.

LOSH is part of UCLA's Institute for Research on Labor and Employment (IRLE) within the College of Letters and Science and the Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (COEH) within the School of Public Health. Founded in 1978 and now celebrating more than 30 years of service, LOSH has established a strong presence in Southern California, with ties to local and international labor unions, community groups, schools, local and state governmental agencies, and community health providers.

LOSH is supported by funding from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS); the California Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation (CHSWC), the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR); the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA); the COEH; the IRLE; the California Wellness Foundation (TCWF); the California Department of Public Health (CDPH); and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

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