

Safety Note #65

TOP 10 AGRICULTURAL VIOLATIONS CITED BY CAL/OSHA

The California Department of Industrial Relations has reported that there were 115 California agricultural worker fatalities between 2020 and 2022⁽¹⁾. Moreover, each year more than 5,000 California agricultural workers incur disabling injuries. The California Code of Regulations (CCR) encompasses a variety of regulatory requirements designed to prevent and reduce agricultural injuries and hazards, respectively. This Safety Note presents information provided by recent Cal/OSHA reporting for the Top 10 Cal/OSHA violations cited in agricultural operations.

Top 10 Agricultural Violations Cited by Cal/OSHA

1. **Heat Illness** – Under CCR Title 8, Section 3395, all employers that participate in outdoor work must have a Heat Illness Prevention Plan as a guide on working in extreme heat conditions. For ANR’s Heat Illness Prevention Plan, visit https://safety.ucanr.edu/Programs/Heat_Illness_Prevention/
2. **Injury and Illness Protection Program (IIPP)** – Under CCR Title 8, Section 3203, employers shall develop, implement, and maintain a written IIPP that meets the eight requirements for preventing injuries and illness in the workplace.
3. **Reporting Injury** – Under CCR Title 8, Section 324, Every employer shall report immediately to the Division of Occupational Safety and Health any serious injury or illness, or death, of an employee occurring in a place of employment or in connection with any employment.
4. **Heat – Shade** – Shade shall be present when the temperature exceeds 80°F. In this case, the employer shall have and maintain one or more areas with shade at all times while employees are present that are either open to the air or provided with ventilation or cooling.
5. **Heat – Water** – Under CCR Title 8, Sections 1524, 3363, 3395, and 3457, employees shall have access to potable drinking water, including but not limited to the requirements that it be fresh, pure, suitably cool, and provided to employees free of charge. The water shall be located as close as practicable to the areas where employees are working.
6. **IIPP – Hazardous Inspection** – Under Title 8, Section 3203, IIPP shall include procedures for identifying and evaluating workplace hazards including scheduled periodic inspections to identify unsafe conditions and work practices. Records of scheduled and periodic inspections to identify unsafe conditions and workplaces, including person(s) conducting the inspection, unsafe conditions, and work practices that have been identified and action taken to correct them.
7. **Machine Guarding** – Under CCR Title 8, Section 3440, all power-driven gears, belts, chains, sheaves, pulleys, sprockets, and idlers nip points require guarding. PTO shafts also require guarding.
8. **IIPP – Training** – Under CCR Title 8, Section 3203, the IIPP shall include a system for training all employees given new job assignments and retraining programs, and documentation of safety and health training must be made.
9. **Heat Illness Training** – Under CCR Title 8, Section 3395, effective training shall be provided to each supervisory and non-supervisory employee before the employee begins work that should reasonably be anticipated to result in exposure to the risk of heat illness.
10. **COVID-19 Procedure** – All the employer’s responsibility and guidance of COVID-19 Procedures can be found under CCR Title 8, Section 3205. For the COVID-19 Procedures at ANR, visit <https://safety.ucanr.edu/covid-19/>

⁽¹⁾ Fatal occupational injuries by industry and event or exposure, California 2020, 2021, 2022