

Poster #11

Encouraging Correct Body Mechanics Among Fruit Warehouse Employees

Pamela Elkind, Pui-Yan Lam, Kathy Pitts, Wendy Holmes and Heather Sawyer, Eastern Washington University, Cheney, Helen Murphy and Maria Negrete, University of Washington, Seattle

Poster Description:

This is an intervention research program. The objective is to consider a certificate of completion to motivate ergonomic behavior as part of a training program for predominantly Spanish speaking workers in fruit warehouses. This training program is being conducted at several fruit warehouses in Eastern Washington. The poster describes the development and implementation of the training program. First, study participants are observed performing activities related to lifting. Second, participants complete a pretest, view the ergonomic video, practice a few exercises, and receive supportive materials. Two weeks later participants complete the posttest and are given another set of ergonomic tasks for observation. The outcomes of the program are evaluated using a mixed method of statistical tabulation of pre-post and experimental data. Study results evaluate the effectiveness of the training program and certificates to encourage ergonomic practices including behavior change. The poster also includes photos related to the training sessions in the warehouse. Funded by: CDC/NIOSH (5 U50 OH007544-04)

Poster #12

Responding to the Needs of the Agricultural Industry of Washington State.

Flor Servin¹, Ofelio Borges¹, ¹ Washington State Department of Agriculture
Worker Protection Standard (WPS) inspections conducted by the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) reveal that pesticide safety training of workers is often not conducted, and training of pesticide handlers, when conducted, is frequently ineffective and does not meet the WPS training requirements. This is a result of many growers and foreman not understanding their responsibilities under the WPS. To fight this problem, WSDA is seeking to increase WPS knowledge, especially those areas related to training by implementing a comprehensive WPS train-the-trainer (TtT) curriculum. WSDA's TtT program has helped 386 agricultural

employers, foreman, safety officers and others comply with WPS standards and gain tools to conduct effective pesticide safety training. Results of surveys conducted at each workshop will be presented.

The TtT program receives support from Washington State's accident account.

Poster #13

Pacific Northwest Health Professionals Survey on Pesticides and Children

Catherine Karr, MD, PhD, Helen Murphy FNP, MHS, **Michelle Sommargren, PhD**, Gwen Glew MD MPH, Matthew C. Keifer, MD, MPH, Richard A. Fenske PhD, MPH

The Pacific Northwest includes several regions of pesticide-intensive agriculture, and the health risks of pesticides to children have become a focus of scientific inquiry and public health concern. We sought to review the experience, attitudes and needs of regional health care providers on the subject of pesticides and child health. Key informants were identified from settings serving high volumes of farm workers and their families. Although these key informants serve a high-risk group of children, only 50% had any pesticide related health training and only 22% had received child-specific information. 55% affirmed using pesticide information their practice, yet most (61%) were not comfortable responding to patient/client questions. Overall, the informants endorsed that more pesticide information would be useful in their work (92%), particularly information specific to child health. Format preferences for future training varied, with physicians preferring web-based training materials, mid-level clinicians requesting written summaries, and community health workers favoring a conference or workshop format. This key informant survey indicates an important pesticide training gap among health care workers serving children at high risk of pesticide exposure. We are currently creating pesticide curricula tailored to the specific preferences and needs of physicians, mid-level clinicians and community health workers.

HEALTH & SAFETY IN WESTERN AGRICULTURE: Research to Practice



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A tall, white, lattice-structured water tower with a rounded top. The words "UC DAVIS" are printed in large, bold, black letters across the top of the tower. The tower is set against a clear sky and is partially obscured by dense foliage in the foreground.

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