

Injury Prevention in Day Laborers: Job-specific Fact Sheets

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Occupational Injury Prevention for *Jornaleros*

PROBLEM:

Jornaleros, or day laborers, experience higher injury rates than the average worker. Different factors put them at increased risk, including daily variation in employer and job, and minimal safety training. Casa Latina (CL) is a worker center in Seattle which supports Latino *jornaleros*.

SOLUTION:

Previously, surveys conducted at CL found that injury rates are high among day laborers and as a result, weekly safety training focusing on injury prevention began. Through the training, it was found that there was also a need for a resource that workers could take with them, as well as for materials that could be used at the center to reinforce trainings.

Methods

- Reviewed literature on day labor and discussed worker center needs with CL administrators
- Attended CL domestic workers' program and heard women's needs and concerns related to house cleaning
- Identified five categories of day labor work to be addressed in fact sheets
- Decided on a one-page format with English & Spanish translations, with separate sets for worker center dispatchers and *jornaleros*
- Reviewed training materials and other resources for graphics and text to accommodate variable literacy levels
- Developed a heat related illness (HRI) training class as well as a HRI fact sheet to reinforce the training



From Left to right: Alicia, domestic worker. Lilia attentive during green cleaning presentation.

Bottom: Casa Latina Domestic Workers



Results

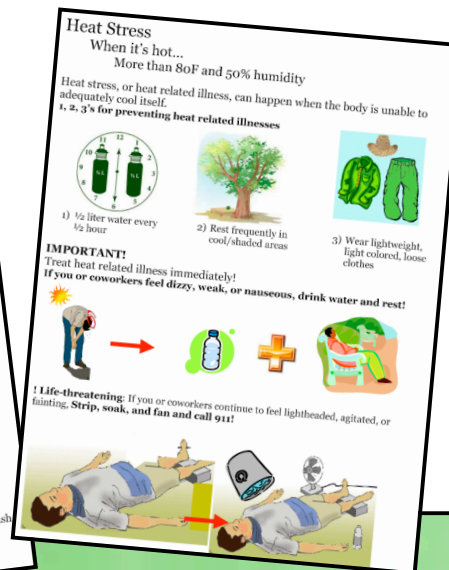
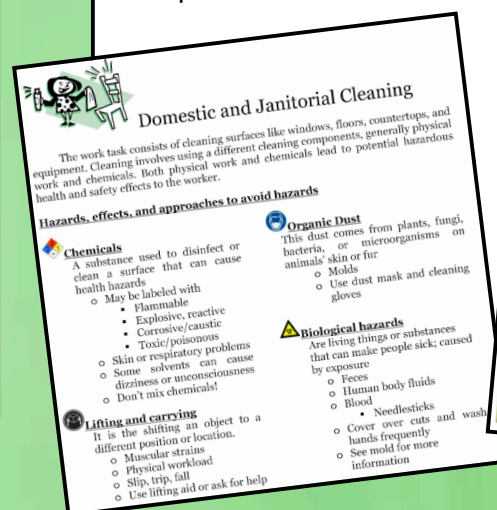
The first set of fact sheets were created on the following topics:

- HRI to target summer *jornalero* jobs
- Maintenance and cleaning topics, including:
 - Chemicals
 - Lifting and carrying
 - Organic dust
 - Biological hazards

Twenty-one *jornaleros* attended the HRI training. They were enthusiastic, attentive, and wanted additional work related training sessions. The training consisted of the following teaching methods:

- PowerPoint presentation of HRI
- Five skits enacting HRI situations
- Handouts on HRI
- Class discussion

Two sample fact sheets are shown below.



Conclusions

These fact sheets may help to prevent injuries and illnesses in *jornaleros*, as a supplement to safety training and as a readily available resource. CL dispatchers can use the fact sheets as reference material when communicating job assignments to *jornaleros*. Focus groups will be conducted to ensure that the fact sheets are effective for *jornaleros* with limited education.

Fact sheets reinforce training sessions. However, it is a challenge to present a complex scientific issue in a readily accessible and primarily graphical format. The process of creating fact sheets is ongoing and will continue in the coming year.

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