

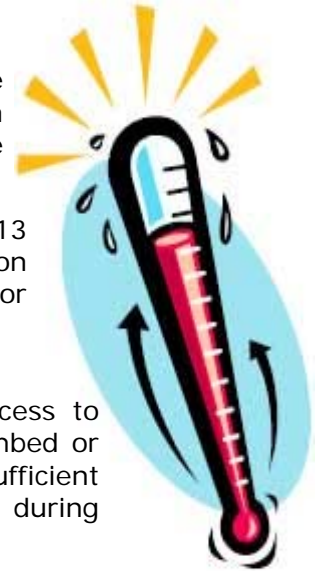


## ***CALI TAKES A STAND ON THE HEAT***

The California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board has voted 6 to 0 to adopt a permanent heat stress regulation. The rule now goes to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL), which has 30 days to approve, upon which date the rule becomes effective.

"California has adopted the first heat illness prevention regulation in the country, taking the lead in prevention and saving lives," says Len Welsh, acting chief of the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA). "With temperatures in California summers often reaching triple digits, it's imperative that we protect those who work outdoors."

The Standards Board adopted emergency heat regulations in August 2005 after 13 workers died from heat-related illnesses. The permanent heat illness prevention standard, Title 8, Chapter 4, § 3395, Heat Illness Prevention, applies to all outdoor places of employment and focuses on the provision of shade, water, acclimatization, and training.



The rule requires that employees working outdoors have access to potable drinking water. Where the supply of water is not plumbed or otherwise continuously supplied, water must be provided in sufficient quantity to give one quart per employee per hour for drinking during the entire shift.

The regulation also requires that employees suffering from heat illness or needing a rest to recover from the heat in order to prevent heat illness have access to an area with shade that is either open to the air or provided with ventilation or cooling for a period of no less than five minutes. With the exception of employers in the agriculture industry, cooling measures other than shade (e.g., use of misting machines) may be provided in lieu of shade if the employer can demonstrate that these measures are at least as effective as shade in allowing employees to cool.

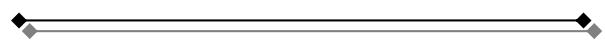
## ***GETTING FIRED COULD BE FATAL***

Being fired is not just bad news, it could be fatal — especially if the individual is middle-aged, according to a recent study. Among a sample of 4,301 people aged between 51 and 61, the study found that the incidence of heart attack and stroke among those who had lost their jobs was more than double that in those still working.



"For many individuals, late career job loss is an exceptionally stressful experience with the potential for provoking numerous undesirable outcomes including cardiovascular and cerebrovascular events (heart attacks and strokes)," the researchers wrote in the journal Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

"Based on our results, the true costs of unemployment exceed the obvious economic costs and include substantial health consequences as well," wrote the team, which was led by William Gallo of the Yale School of Medicine.



### **2006 Dates:**

#### **January:**

Plan Your Safety Training Now!  
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#### **February:**

Child Passenger Safety Week

#### **March:**

Poison Prevention Week  
Workplace Eye Safety Month  
Save Your Vision Month

#### **April:**

Sports Eye Safety Month  
Intl Building Safety Week  
Work Zone Aware. Week  
Playground Safety Week

#### **May:**

Clean Air Month  
Melanoma Awareness Month  
Electrical Safety Month  
National EMS Week  
Poison Prevention Week

#### **June:**

National Safety Month

#### **July:**

EYE INJURY PREV. MONTH

#### **August:**

Prepare Your Winter Safety Training!

#### **September:**

Farm Safety/Health Week

#### **October:**

Nat. Fire Prevention Week  
Drive Safely Work Week  
Radon Action Week

#### **November:**

Take advantage of the weather and do your classroom training!

#### **December:**

"3D Month" - National Drunk & Drugged Driving Prevention Month



## **UNLICENSED TATTOO ARTISTS POSE RISKS**

A worrisome superbug seen in prisoners and athletes is also showing up in people who get illegal tattoos, federal health officials said Thursday.

Forty-four tattoo customers in Ohio, Kentucky and Vermont developed skin infections caused by methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The infections occurred in 2004 and 2005, and were traced to 13 unlicensed tattoo artists, according to an article in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. These are the first documented cases of tattoo-related MRSA infections, said Dr. Mysheika LeMaile-Williams, a CDC infectious disease investigator who co-authored the report.

MRSA is an antibiotic-resistant bacteria that fights off the body's immune system and destroys tissues. The community-associated variety, seen in the tattoo infections, has been diagnosed in otherwise healthy athletes, military recruits and prison inmates. The skin infections can be transmitted from person to person by contact with draining sores, or through contact with contaminated items or surfaces. MRSA generally causes mild skin infections, but in some cases has led to pneumonia, bloodstream infections, and a painful, flesh-destroying condition called necrotizing fasciitis.

Clusters of MRSA cases were seen in Ohio in June 2004, November 2004 and April 2005, involving 33 people. A four-person cluster was reported in Kentucky in May 2005 and a seven-person cluster was in Vermont in August.

Four of the patients were hospitalized, but all recovered, LeMaile-Williams said. Ohio, Kentucky and Vermont require licensing for tattoo artists, but all the affected customers went to unlicensed artists. Instead of doing the work in tattoo parlors, the body art was done in the homes of the tattooists or the recipients, or even in public places such as a park.

The tattooists sometimes did not use masks or gloves, did not properly disinfect skin and did not properly clean the equipment. One Ohio tattooist used a homemade tattoo gun made from a computer ink-jet cartridge and guitar strings, LeMaile-Williams said.

Three of the Ohio tattooists had recently been jailed, she said. Customers sometimes seek out unlicensed tattooists because their services are less expensive, or because they are younger than 18 and cannot go to a licensed tattooist without parental consent, she said.

Several of the infected patients were under 18, she added. The tattoo cases are not surprising, said Dr. Kate Heilpern, an Atlanta emergency room physician and Emory University researcher who has studied MRSA.

The superbug is appearing in locker rooms, homes and many other unsterile places where people are in skin-to-skin contact.

"We are still riding a big wave of this bacterial infection and I really don't see any end in sight," she said.

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# Safety Resource Center

### *It's Good To Know:*

August is...

**"A Great Time To Start Planning Your Winter Safety Effort".**

September is:

*"National Preparedness Month"*

### *Upcoming Training*

**Kansas City Safety & Health Conference**

July 20-21, 2006. Safety & Health Council of Western Missouri & Kansas.

Great Wolf Lodge, Kansas City, KS

816-842-5223

[www.safetycouncilmoks.com](http://www.safetycouncilmoks.com)

### *Safety Information:*

The National Safety Council ([www.nsc.org](http://www.nsc.org)) is a tremendous safety information resource. They're available 24 hours per day by visiting their website:

[www.nsc.org/](http://www.nsc.org/)

