

Memorandum

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To: DEPUTY DISTRICT DIRECTORS, Construction
DEPUTY DIVISION CHIEF, Structure Construction
CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS
SENIOR CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS
RESIDENT ENGINEERS

Date: January 25, 2019

File: Division of Construction
CPD 19-4


From: BOB FINNEY, Chief (Acting)
Division of Construction

Subject: **MANDATORY SAFETY MEETING REGARDING VALLEY FEVER**

The informational **Valley Fever Prevention in Outdoor Workers** recorded webcast must be shown in at least one safety meeting at each field office and materials testing facility by March 31, 2019. All Construction field and materials testing staff must attend at least one of the safety meetings at which the recorded webcast is shown. The webcast provides information about field operations that may expose California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) employees and consultants working on Caltrans projects to the fungus that causes Valley Fever. It also provides guidance to minimize exposure and discusses health issues related to Valley Fever. The 38-minute video produced by Caltrans' Office of Health and Safety, and presented by Jason Wilken, PhD, of the California Department of Public Health, can be viewed at:

http://svgcstream01.dot.ca.gov/webcast/vod/training/vod_training.asp?vodfilename=20181121_Valley_Fever.mp4

For field offices and materials testing facilities that are unable to connect to the above link, a copy of the video on a CD or DVD may be requested from the Headquarters Safety Coordinator Marvin Guinez by email to Marvin.Guinez@dot.ca.gov.

The PowerPoint presentation referenced in the video is available as a PDF file for download at:

<https://construction.onramp.dot.ca.gov/downloads/construction/files/sisp/CDPH-PreventingValleyFeverinOutdoorWorkers-2018-11-21.pdf>

For tracking purposes in each field office or materials testing facility, attendance for each mandatory safety meeting regarding Valley Fever should be recorded on a tailgate safety meeting form. District Construction Safety Coordinators must report the date the Valley Fever safety video is shown in each field office or materials testing facility to the Headquarters Safety Coordinator by April 15, 2019, by email to: Marvin.Guinez@dot.ca.gov.

The Office of Health and Safety is developing a Valley Fever Awareness webinar that will be mandatory viewing for all Construction staff. Districts will be informed in early 2019 when the training becomes available. Registration for the webinar will be through the Learning Management System (LMS). A certificate will be issued at the time of completion, and training records will be automatically updated in the LMS.

The following specification and *Construction Manual* revisions were made in 2018 for guidance and information regarding exposure to the fungus that causes Valley Fever: Section 2-102D, “Resident Engineer”; Section 5-003, “Preconstruction Conference with the Contractor”; Section 5-102C, “Description of Categories,” of the *Construction Manual*, and Section 7-1.02K(6)(a), “General”; Section 7-1.05C, “Other,” of the *Standard Specifications*, and Section 7-1.02K(6)(a), “General”; Section 8-1.03, “Preconstruction Conference,” of the Revised *Standard Specifications*. The *Code of Safe Practices* is being updated to provide additional guidance on this public health issue and will be published in 2019.

The following industrial hygiene practices should be considered throughout the state in the interim to reduce exposure to the fungus that causes Valley Fever, especially for those who work in the following counties: Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, and Tulare:

1. Check that there is adequate dust control to minimize visual dust, such as by wetting soil
2. Suspend work in dust storms or during high winds if possible
3. Always stand upwind of or away from dirt moving operations
4. Keep vehicle windows closed
5. When exposure to dust is unavoidable, supervisors can provide for voluntary use:
 - Respiratory protection: It is recommended that N95 respirators or better dust masks be used. District warehouses stock N100 masks. All policies and guidance should be followed when an employee voluntarily uses respiratory protection.
 - Tyvek disposable suits or coveralls. If requested by employees, respirators and Tyvek disposable suits must be provided.
 - Remove Tyvek disposable suits or coveralls and boots prior to returning home or the offices.

If you have questions about this directive, please contact Phillip Phan, Division of Construction, at Phillip.Phan@dot.ca.gov or (916) 651-3621.