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| Occupational Health Watch: An update from the occupational Health Branch, CA Department of Public Health |

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| **Focus onValley Fever Awareness Month: Outdoor Workers at Risk**People who work outdoors in California’s Central Valley and other locations, especially workers who dig or disturb soil, are at risk for Valley Fever. Valley Fever (also called coccidioidomycosis) is caused by inhaling fungal spores found in the soil in certain parts of California. It is a serious illness that can cause disability or even death.The Occupational Health Branch investigates cases of Valley Fever linked to California worksites and offers technical assistance and education. OHB has updated its free online [CME course on work-related coccidioidomycosis](http://cdph.us5.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=4586a1ad0b7ecd671f7295e07&id=94c96b1073&e=c77f9bdcea) for health care providers. The course gives up-to-date statistics on cases in the U.S., provides information to assist providers in diagnosing and treating the illness, and includes recent scientific studies on coccidioidomycosis in the workplace.Employers in affected areas can take steps to protect workers from breathing in the fungal spores that cause Valley Fever. These include controlling dust, providing worker training, and suspending outdoor work during heavy winds. New findings on Valley Fever prevention are highlighted in the recently published journal article, [Dust Exposure and Coccidioidomycosis Prevention Among Solar Power Farm Construction Workers in California](http://cdph.us5.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=4586a1ad0b7ecd671f7295e07&id=eaaf01eb46&e=c77f9bdcea).Email Occupational Health Watch with feedback about this update or change of address. |

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| http://cdn-images.mailchimp.com/icons/social-block/color-forwardtofriend-128.png |  [Forward to a Friend](http://us5.forward-to-friend.com/forward?u=4586a1ad0b7ecd671f7295e07&id=84a02db025&e=c77f9bdcea)  |

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| Many Californians face health and safety risks on the job.**Workers disturbing soil for solar farm construction are at risk for Valley Fever.****Resources**[Coccidioidomycosis: Update on Occupational Health Issues](http://cdph.us5.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=4586a1ad0b7ecd671f7295e07&id=ed4577468e&e=c77f9bdcea) - free CME course[Work-related Valley Fever web page](http://cdph.us5.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=4586a1ad0b7ecd671f7295e07&id=9745d09034&e=c77f9bdcea)[CDPH Valley Fever web page](http://cdph.us5.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=4586a1ad0b7ecd671f7295e07&id=1bd41b6881&e=c77f9bdcea)[OHB](http://cdph.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4586a1ad0b7ecd671f7295e07&id=cf41ff9cff&e=c77f9bdcea) improves California worker health and safety through prevention activities.  We gather information on job hazards, test new approaches to prevent worker injury and illness, and help make changes at the workplace.CDPH Logo |

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