

Health and Safety for Workers in the Field Sciences

April 14, 2012

Do you work outdoors?

If so, what you don't know could ruin your day!

Field-working professionals are exposed to many types of hazards, including severe weather, extreme terrain, water- hazards, and driving, to name a few. Encounters with wild animals, stinging insects, irritating plants, and even potentially dangerous people are not uncommon. In addition to these readily recognized dangers, many field-professionals might not realize how often they are exposed to pathogenic micro-organisms in the work environment. Air, soil, wildlife, insects, water, food and even hotel rooms, are all potential sources and/or vector for a suite of “undesirable” parasites, molds, bacteria and viruses.



Preventing injury and illness on the job is paramount to both the employee and employer; both share roles and responsibility. This workshop will identify and assess various hazards associated with field work and explore methods to avoid or minimize them. The importance of preparedness and prevention will be emphasized, including appropriate planning, proper use of personal protective equipment, employee training and stress management. We will also discuss components of written health and safety plans, emergency contingency plans, accident investigations and adaptive management.

Josephine Guardino and John Dittes each have over twenty years experience working as field biologist and project managers in California and the Western United States. They have been involved in large-scale field studies in remote locations for a variety of client sectors and projects, including timber/fuels management, long distance utility corridors, highway and roads, natural gas exploration, ski resorts and landscape-scale conservation planning.



This workshop will meet Saturday, April 14, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Holt Hall room 129 at CSU Chico. The registration fee is \$55.00 (\$45.00 for members of Friends of the Herbarium). Please register in advance: class size is limited to 24 participants (class cancelled without a minimum of 10 participants). For more information about workshop content please contact Josephine Guardino at joguardino@sbcglobal.net or (530) 384-1774. For more information about workshop registration please contact the Biology office at (530) 898-5356 or jbraden@csuchico.edu.

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