ORGANIZE. ORGANIZE. ORGANIZE.

9 STEPS WE CAN TAKE TO DEMAND PROTECTION FROM HEAT ILLNESSES AT WORK

@NATIONALCOSH

1) LEARN ABOUT HEAT ILLNESS TOGETHER:

It's much easier to take action when we have a shared understanding of the problem. What is Heat Stroke or Heat Exhaustion? What are the symptoms? What do I do if I or my coworker has signs of Heat Stress? What are prevention measures being used?

2) BRAINSTORM ABOUT YOUR WORKPLACE RISKS:

Where are the risks in the different spaces? (For example, new workers who haven't built any tolerance, working in the heat of the day, no breaks or no shade available for breaks. For indoor work, is there air conditioning available for cooling down during breaks).

3) DOCUMENT WHAT HAS HAPPENED:

Monitoring collectively is important: Have workers gotten sick? How many? When? Maintain a record of everything that has happened with the date when possible.

4) FORM A SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

to develop a plan and schedule regular meetings.

5) GATHER CONTACT INFO FROM ALL WORKERS YOU CAN:

Think about folks outside of your department too!

6) CHOOSE A COMMUNICATION PLATFORM:

Create groups in Signal, Slack, WhatsApp, or Facebook. Make sure to make it private, so workers can strategize without management interference.

8) DECIDE TOGETHER WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT SAFETY MEASURES!

Make sure you write your demands down, and that you think about how effective the measures are in preventing COVID-19 and responding to a potential crisis.

7) THINK ABOUT POWER:

Who in management has authority to make decisions? Who influences them? What leverage do workers have to challenge the boss? What does management need from workers? How do workers line up for or against supporting challenges to management?

9) DEMAND YOUR EMPLOYER IMPLEMENT YOUR MEASURES

By putting escalating pressure on them. That means, tactics that help you recruit more support from your co-workers and allies AND that builds up more pressure on the employer to do the right thing.