

# March

THROUGH NEXT WEEK

EXTREME DROUGHT

NO PRECIPITATION

# Safety message

Division of Environmental Services

## ...from the Division Chief

On January 30, 2014 Director Mark Cowin announce that DWR was for the first time in history cutting the allocation of water to the 29 public water agencies to **zero**.

California is in one of the worst droughts in recent history. Even though California is in a drought, this does not mean the work DES does stops. The enormity and complexity of water use, does means staff need to be aware of the their surroundings when working in the field. Unfortunately, when working in the field you may encounter residents who live and work in and around the Delta to be contentious at best.

I am asking you to take care when interacting with the public. The drought and the thought of the twin tunnels has put some people on edge. It can be difficult at times if you are confronted by someone who is angry and does not wishing to have a discussion. If you are in this situation, be courteous and respectful. In the field you are the face of the department. If you find yourself in an awkward situation or feel threatened you should leave the site safely as soon as possible and report it to your supervisor.

Sincerely,

Dean Messer, Chief  
Division of Environmental Services

### Online Training

If you work with chemicals you need to take the OSHA GHS awareness training. For more information visit: [DESSafety.ca.gov](http://DESSafety.ca.gov) Print out the quiz and review it as you watch the videos. After watching the videos sign and date the quiz and hand it to your supervisor. The quiz will be used to verify that you have taken the GHS awareness training.

## Safety Moment

Spring is fast approaching as winter nears its end. The day time temperatures are starting to warm or at least this year the cool morning temperatures are warming. The warmer weather brings the spring breezes and pollen and the beginning of allergy season- The use of prescription or over the counter medications may be used to help alleviate symptoms.

The Department of Water Resources would like to remind staff that, prescription and non-prescription medication management in the work place is the responsibility of the employee. Keep all medications in a secure location. Proper control, use and disposal of all medications and medical devices including, syringes and EpiPens are the employees responsibility.

## Spring Safety Tips

### For 2014: March Eye Safety Month

While **March is workplace eye wellness month** it is still important to care of your eyes all year long. Taking care of your eyes should always be a priority while you are working. Many eye injuries are irreversible and can be permanent. *Workplace eye wellness month* is a great time to think about what your work and what you should be doing protecting their vision while working. **Safety meetings** are a great place to discuss eye safety. Training in the proper use of machines and harmful chemicals will help to greatly reduce eye problems.

1. Wear Safety Glasses/Goggles
  1. When operating machinery
  2. Handling pre-acidified samples
  3. Handling chemicals for work, no matter how dilute.

Think Safety visit <http://swpsafety.water.ca.gov> for more information