

## Fired Up! Workers For Heat Justice featuring Jessica Martinez, National COSH

Extreme heat need not be a death sentence for workers and communities. With enough coordination, organizing, and care, we can build a safer, cooler, and more just world for everyone. The National Council for Occupational Safety and Health (National COSH), operates at the intersection of labor and health, supporting workers' leadership for health, safety, and power and convening a national federation of 25 local affiliates.

In recent years, National COSH has worked to address extreme heat as a workplace hazard. Its Fired Up! campaign educates and empowers workers to recognize and prevent heat illness, as well as advocate for safer conditions in their workplaces.

In this video, Jessica Martinez, National COSH's executive director, outlines how National COSH's theory of change begins with protecting and empowering individual workers and extends into broader policy advocacy.

### **Transcript begins.**

[A group of organizers marching and holding a National COSH banner that reads 'Leading the Fight for Safe and Healthy workplaces!' Ben Takemoto speaks from a podium, standing in front of four fellow activists holding posters that read 'Heat Justice for Workers' in white type with a yellow raised fist that is outlined by a red sun.]

**BEN TAKEMOTO:** We're gathered today with a singular powerful message: Heat justice is a human right.

[Jessica Martinez speaks directly to camera in a studio setting against a grey background.]

**JESSICA MARTINEZ, executive director, National COSH:** At National COSH, we have a national campaign called Fired Up! Workers for Heat Justice.

[Footage of construction and agriculture workers at work in the hot sun.]

**JESSICA MARTINEZ:** Workers are dying at unprecedented numbers. We know that over 2,000 worker fatalities happened just last year. We want this number to go down.

[Newspaper headline: Extreme Heat Is More Dangerous for Workers Every Year.]

**JESSICA MARTINEZ:** We believe every worker should have access to a safe and just workplace, and that every worker has a right to go home safe and sound.

[Freddy Pierre speaks from a podium, standing in front of three fellow activists holding posters that read 'Heat Justice for Workers' in white type with a yellow raised fist that is outlined by a red sun.]

**FREDDY PIERRE:** We take these jobs because we want to work, support our family, and rebuild our lives. That doesn't mean that we should have to risk our health and safety to do it.

**JESSICA MARTINEZ:** The goals of that campaign is to ensure that every worker organizes, has the support needed, and we are a convener, a strategizer, around issues of heat justice. We know that some workers are not fully aware about their rights, so we do basic training. We bring together worker leaders from across the country who are interested in advocating around health and safety, and in particular, heat. We provide the tools that they need about knowing who OSHA is, knowing about their rights, how they can mobilize, how can they do strategic co-enforcement to ensure that they can talk to their peers and coworkers around health and safety issues.

[Jessica's interview is covered with footage of various meetings and trainings that National COSH has facilitated with workers. Jazmin Moreno-Dominguez speaks from a podium, standing in front of four fellow activists holding posters that read 'Heat Justice for Workers' in white type with a yellow raised fist that is outlined by a red sun.]

**JAZMIN MORENO-DOMINGUEZ:** We would never ask a surgeon to work without proper PPE, we would never send a firefighter into flames without proper gear, and yet we continue to ask our construction workers, airport workers, warehouse workers to go into work without basic rights such as water, rest, and shade.

**JESSICA MARTINEZ:** We have a website that also includes tons of resources around heat justice for workers— from how to file an OSHA complaint, to knowing the basics around heat, how to speak to an employer, and make a case for safety around heat. At National COSH, we're fired up, ready to take action, and mobilize the grassroots to demand this justice.

[Closing animation showcasing two desaturated photos of workers organising around heat justice placed on paper tears and a textured background. The 'Fired Up! Workers for Heat Justice' logo in yellow, black, and red, which includes a silhouette of a worker raking a field and another worker sweeping with a broom, dissolves on above the photos.]

**End of transcript.**