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Environment Department to Offer Vital Worker Safety Information to Mexican Workers and Employers Saturday in Albuquerque

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) Occupational Health and Safety Bureau will participate in a **Mexican Workers and Employers Fair** sponsored by the Mexican Consulate on **Saturday, June 26**. This information fair will be held at the Consulate office at **1610 4th Street NW in Albuquerque from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm**. The purpose of this fair is to provide information and educational outreach to Mexican workers and employers.

Bilingual staff from NMED's Occupational Health and Safety Bureau will be present at the fair Saturday in order to offer Mexican workers information on their rights as employees and to provide job related health and safety information. Participation in the fair is part of the Occupational Health and Safety Bureau's recently launched Hispanic Worker Initiative.

"Due to language barriers and cultural differences, Hispanic workers often face increased risk for injury on the job," said NMED Secretary Ron Curry. "I hope that these outreach efforts will help keep these workers safe and educate them about the risks their jobs can pose."

The Mexican Consulate in New Mexico estimates there are approximately 350,000 Mexicans in New Mexico, with the majority living and working in Central and Northern New Mexico. The major industries employing Mexican workers are construction, agriculture, hotels and landscaping.

Hispanic workers are at increased risk for work related injuries. In 2000, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the death rate rose 12 percent among Hispanic workers nationally, and 24 percent among Hispanic construction workers.

For further information contact Jon Goldstein, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-0314.

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