

Christine Mermier

I am a researcher (now retired) who has worked extensively with the issues around occupational heat exposure. The draft heat protection rule proposed by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) addresses some of the key issues necessary to keep workers safe from excessive heat exposure in various workplaces, both indoors and out. Written plans such as the HIIPPs proposed in this document, are vital, and include emergency plans and common sense strategies to mitigate heat illness. Also vital are employee training and rules employers must follow will save workers from injury and even death as summers get hotter. I strongly support this attempt to protect many types of workers who are endangered during the hottest months in New Mexico.