

WORKSAFE

safety, health, and justice for workers
seguridad, salud y justicia para los trabajadores

IMPACT REPORT 2018

INTRODUCTION

Our goal at Worksafe is to make sure all workers know that a safe and healthful workplace is a fundamental right. We want all workers to feel secure in the knowledge that they are backed by a movement that will stand with them when they assert that right.

That's why 2018 has been a year of fostering strategic partnerships to raise the profile of worker safety and health among labor and legal advocates. Read on to learn how these collective efforts are leveraging the power of multiple organizations to improve working conditions in California.

In 2018 Worksafe continued to push for strong worker health and safety protections that benefit all California workers. We helped win an injury prevention rule for hotel housekeepers, and we have led the fight for stronger heat hazard protections for indoor workers. We have also expanded our engagement with legal aid advocates and added topics to our training catalog like the intersection of workplace violence and domestic violence.

Supporters and allies, thank you for encouraging and inspiring Worksafe in 2018. We are ready for 2019 and can't wait to unlock all the potential that has been built over the past year.

Onward,
Doug Parker
Executive Director

OUR VALUES

- The **Right** to a safe and healthful workplace
- Respect** for workers and recognition of the dignity of all work
- Equal Access** to justice in the workplace
- Prioritizing **Vulnerable Workers**, including low-wage and immigrant workers
- Seeking **Worker-Centered and Community-Based** solutions for protecting health and safety
- Using a **Movement Building** approach to advocate for workers

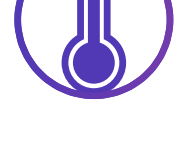
POLICY ADVOCACY

Worksafe advocates for strong occupational safety and health (OSH) protections for workers — particularly low-income, immigrant, and contingent workers. In recent years we've become the leading California organization monitoring and addressing OSH rulemaking at Cal/OSHA and the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board.

Highlights in California

In 2018 Worksafe organized support, submitted comments, and testified in favor of more protective health and safety standards on a variety of issues, including:

Heat Hazard
Protections for
Indoor Workers



Hotel Housekeeper
Musculoskeletal
Injury Prevention



Workplace Violence
Prevention in
General Industry



Fall Protection in
General Industry



Access to Injury &
Illness Prevention Plans



Safer Avalanche
Management



Health & Safety in the
Cannabis Industry



Surgical Plume Protections
for Hospital Workers



Workplace Chemical
Exposure Limits



AB2334: Improving Public Access to Data on Workplace Harms

In the 2018 California legislative cycle, Worksafe pushed for AB 2334 (Thurmond): Employer Reporting Requirements for Occupational Injury and Illness.

Signed by Governor Brown this fall, this new law makes it harder for unscrupulous employers to get away with hiding workplace injuries and illnesses. It clarifies that Cal/OSHA has six months to cite an employer after discovering a Log 300 reporting violation — not six months from the violation itself. Also, in the event that federal OSHA rolls back the electronic recordkeeping requirement, AB 2334 requires action to address the reporting system for California.

Resisting Federal Rollbacks of Health & Safety Protections

In light of the Trump Administration's dangerously lax approach to OSH, Worksafe engages on select federal issues of importance to California workers. In 2018, Worksafe joined several national efforts to prevent rollbacks of hard-fought worker protections or new policies that may harm workers. Topics included:

- **Employer Reporting of Injuries and Illnesses**
- **Defending Meal and Rest Breaks for California Truckers**
- **Protecting Young Workers in Health Care Occupations**
- **Preventing Barriers to Public Assistance for Immigrants**
- **Safe Line Speeds in Slaughterhouses**

LEGAL SERVICES & TRAINING

Worksafe promotes access to justice for low-wage and immigrant workers by providing free legal training and technical assistance to legal aid programs, worker advocacy groups, and unions. We continue to be the only legal services organization in California focused on worker health and safety.

Select Training Topics

- Occupational Hazard Identification
- Know Your Workplace Health & Safety Rights
- Sexual Harassment as a Workplace Health & Safety Issue
- Including Worker Voices in Policy Solutions
- Workplace Stress as an Occupational Health Hazard
- Intersections of Workplace & Domestic Violence

Select Training Audiences

- Legal Aid Attorneys
- Worker Advocates
- Airport Workers
- Warehouse Workers
- Survivors of Domestic Violence
- Communication Workers

Know-Your-Rights Training Videos

This year we completed filming a series of Vietnamese language know-your-rights videos. The videos cover legal rights related to occupational health and safety, workers' compensation, wage theft, human trafficking, and other topics. Check out two of the finished films on our [YouTube channel](#).

"I support Worksafe's efforts to provide Cal/OSHA with substantive feedback on the proposed Workplace Violence Prevention standard. Their comprehensive response to the current draft includes valuable explanations and detailed research that will help make the new rule more protective of California employees."

— Michael Musser, Liaison
California Teachers Association

"Through comprehensive trainings for staff and volunteers, Worksafe has helped us develop expertise in the area of workplace health and safety. And as questions have come up in our workplace safety cases, Worksafe has been an ongoing source for sound advice and guidance."

— Derek Schoonmaker, Program Director
Centro Legal de la Raza

MOVEMENT BUILDING

We envision a world where all workers are safe and healthy — and this vision is deeply intertwined with other movements for racial, gender, and economic justice. That's why Worksafe is a leader in several statewide coalitions, working with organizations from multiple sectors to ensure that all workers can access safe, healthy, and fair work.

Responding to the Rise of Insecure Work

In 2018 Worksafe took a leadership role in the California Alliance for a Secure Economy (CASE), a statewide coalition of labor, worker, and legal aid organizations addressing the abuses of temp, gig, and other insecure work arrangements. Through CASE and its Make Work Pay campaign, we're pursuing a worker-centered progressive policy agenda to improve conditions for contingent workers.

Supporting Immigrant Day Laborers in Northern California

We are also partnering with [Centro Legal de la Raza](#) and [Street Level Health Project](#) to help a coalition of five Northern California day laborer centers advocate for state and local policies to improve conditions for low-wage and immigrant workers. In an effort to develop this partnership into an authentically worker-led effort, all coalition business is conducted in Spanish.

Preventing Workplace Harassment in the Age of #MeToo

In 2018 we continued to work with the Ya Basta! Coalition to address sexual violence against immigrant women in the janitorial sector. We're working to implement AB 1978, a bill that requires employers to provide sexual harassment and violence training for janitorial workers and supervisors. This year Worksafe also joined [Our Turn at Work](#), a national coalition of workers and activists, to address workplace sexual harassment as a safety and health issue.

Building Power Among Worker Advocates

This year we also continued our leadership in the [Coalition of Low Wage and Immigrant Worker Advocates](#) (CLIWA). We helped plan our annual retreat in June that attracted nearly 100 attendees from California legal aid service providers and worker centers. As chair of the legislative committee, we are also coordinating CLIWA members' legislative work.

Growing the Occupational Safety & Health Field

This summer Worksafe participated in the [Occupational Health Internship Program](#) (OHIP), a national effort that links students with unions and worker organizations to investigate workplace health and safety issues. We love this unique program and are thrilled to help foster the next generation of skilled and passionate OSH advocates.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Worksafe raises awareness about occupational health and safety to help people better understand the connections between work and health. We strive to build collective understanding of how workplace exposures intersect with broader public health and social justice issues.

Bearing Witness to the Human Toll of Unsafe Work

This year Worksafe released [Dying at Work in California 2018](#), our seventh annual report on the state of safety and health protections for California workers. The report highlights four special issue areas: workplace violence, temporary workers, wildfire response and relief, and immigrant workers. [Contact us](#) if you'd like to contribute to our 2019 Dying at Work report.

Creating Space to Gather & Mourn Fallen Workers

On April 27, 2018 Worksafe partnered with the [UC Berkeley Labor Occupational Health Program](#) (LOHP) to observe Workers Memorial Day with a community gathering. The event highlighted the issue of workplace violence — the second leading cause of death among California workers — and lifted up current efforts to keep all workers safe. [Contact us](#) if you'd like to help organize next year's memorial.

Celebrating the Struggle for Safe Workplaces

Every year, Worksafe recognizes outstanding leaders and campaigns at the forefront of workplace justice in California. Our 2018 [Worker Health & Safety Heroes](#) were Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher, [Centro Legal de la Raza](#), and the workers and organizers of the Fair Future at Tesla Campaign. Our next annual event will take place in May 2019 in Berkeley — we hope you can join us!

BOARD

- Danielle Lucido (Chair) - *IPPE Local 20*
- Alor Calderon (Vice Chair) - *Employee Rights Center*
- Suzanne Teran (Treasurer) - *UC Berkeley LOHP*
- Ryan Spillers (Secretary) - *Gilbert & Sackman*
- Justin Bosl - *Kazan, McClain, Satterley, & Greenwood*
- Matthew DeCarolis - *Bet Tzedek*
- Linda Delp - *UCLA LOSH*
- Robert Goldmacher - *CA Dept. of Public Health (ret.)*
- Robert Harrison - *UCSF & CA Dept. of Public Health*
- Laura Kurze - *California Teachers Association*
- Mitch Steiger - *California Labor Federation*

Organization names listed for identification only

STAFF

- Doug Parker
Executive Director
- Jora Trang
Managing Attorney
- Nicole Marquez
Senior Staff Attorney
- Tim Shadix
Staff Attorney
- Mara Ortenburger
Director of Communications & Research
- Thais Forneret
Associate Director of Development & Operations
- José Alfaro
Communications & Administrative Associate

1736 Franklin St., Ste. 500
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 922-8075
www.worksafe.org



DONATE TO WORKSAFE

Icons are from Noun Project artists: BomSymbols, MintShirt, Academic Technologies, Luis Padro, Sahua D, Yang Liu, Alina Oleynik, Indra Anis, and HeadsOfBeds.