

DYING AT WORK IN CALIFORNIA

Workers Memorial Day - April 28, 2020



WORKSAFE

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Worksafe is California’s only statewide nonprofit focused on ensuring the occupational safety and health (OSH) rights of vulnerable workers through policy advocacy, capacity and coalition building, and impact litigation. We are a leader in engaging and convening worker advocates, legal aid organizations, academic institutions, and government agencies to prevent workplace injury, illness, and death by bringing justice to the workplace. We achieve this by focusing our efforts on the low-income, immigrant, and workers of color who bear a disproportionate burden of exposure to workplace hazards.

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INTRODUCTION

Mourn the Dead, Fight for the Living

Worksafe releases *Dying at Work in California* each April to bear witness to the human toll of unsafe and unhealthy work. The release coincides with Workers Memorial Day, an international day of remembrance for those who have been hurt and killed on the job.

As the coronavirus crisis grips the globe, the vital importance of occupational safety and health (OSH) has never been more clear. The notion that “worker health is public health” is getting unprecedented traction. Once-obscure workplace issues of aerosol transmission and personal protective equipment (PPE) now dominate headlines.

This extraordinary crisis has amplified existing inequities in our economy. Long-standing, unacceptable inequities that consistently put the poorest and most vulnerable workers on the front lines of the most dangerous jobs. Workers in our state are losing their lives by going to work without adequate protections.

Despite these tremendously troubling times, there are reasons to be hopeful. Workers and OSH advocates across the country are rising to meet the crisis – coming together to create resources and craft strategy.

Frontline workers are organizing and protesting unsafe and unfair conditions. Mutual aid efforts are blossoming. There is a growing recognition that a return to “normal” won’t suffice, and we are imagining alternative futures.

Thank you for reading and sharing *Dying at Work in California*. Thank you for bearing witness to the human impact of these preventable workplace tragedies.

Let us mourn the loss of these fallen workers and renew our commitment to the struggle for workplace health, safety, and justice for all.

About the Data

Dying at Work in California presents an overview of workplace fatalities based on the most recent data available from the [Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries](#) (CFOI) – a collaborative effort between the US Bureau of Labor Statistics and state agencies. The most recent data were released in December 2019 and cover fatal injuries that occurred during the 2018 calendar year. You can view California-specific data on the state’s [CFOI webpage](#).



CONFRONTING CRISIS

California Workers Deserve Protection from COVID-19

The abject failure of governments and employers to plan for this fully foreseeable disaster has shut down national and state economies because our workplaces are not safe. Millions are infected, at least two hundred thousand are dead, and the path ahead remains unknown. California workers, including those typically ignored but now deemed essential, are getting sick and dying from workplace exposure to COVID-19.

Low-income workers, workers of color, and immigrant workers bear a disproportionate burden of workplace hazards even in normal times. The coronavirus crisis is fueling, and fueled by, racial and economic inequities that have long impacted worker safety, health, and

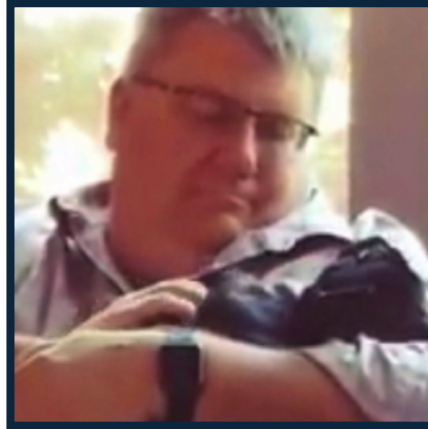
wellbeing. People of color are [disproportionately represented](#) in frontline industry jobs, including grocery stores, janitorial services, and public transit. This puts vulnerable workers at greater risk of exposure to the virus, and this is one significant cause for the racial inequities we are seeing in COVID-19 infections and deaths.

Furthermore, many vulnerable workers, such as undocumented, misclassified, or temporary workers, are carved out of worker protections and benefits. Others, such as grocery, retail, warehousing, and healthcare workers, are experiencing employer neglect and lax enforcement of health and safety rights.

CALIFORNIA WORKERS LOST TO COVID-19



Rosary Castro-Olega, 63
Registered Nurse, Los Angeles



Jeffrey Baumbach, 57
Registered Nurse, Stockton



Valeria Viveros, 21
Nurse Assistant, Corona

The coronavirus crisis has dramatically exposed the basic frailties of the OSH regulatory system.

At the national level, Federal OSHA has been mostly **missing in action**. The lack of adequate preparation and stockpiles has led the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to relax health and safety standards for healthcare worker protection. Federal OSHA has **directed its staff** to take into consideration employers' 'good faith' reasons for not complying with safety rules. This approach puts those workers, and everyone else, at greater risk of infection.

California stands alone in the US in having prepared for this moment through the creation of the detailed **Aerosol Transmissible Diseases (ATD) Standard** in 2009, a hard-fought victory in the campaign to defend healthcare workers from transmissible diseases. It establishes a framework for protecting health care workers and patients from novel pathogens like COVID-19, specifies the layers of protection needed to protect staff, and stipulates the need to plan for 'surge' situations.

Our ATD Standard could serve as a national model for protecting healthcare workers. Unfortunately, we are hearing from nurses' unions and other medical professionals that many hospitals never implemented the ATD Standard well over the past decade, let alone the many other workplaces where the standard also applies. And they have been wholly unprepared to address the crisis of COVID-19.

There has been much ink spilled on a respirator supply shortage, and in response California's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (known as Cal/OSHA) relaxed the requirements related to respirators when a shortage is documented. At the same time, the agency made it clear the ATD standard has not been waived or revoked, and full respirator requirements remain in effect as soon as supply issues are resolved.

In response to the crisis, Cal/OSHA has published a series of guidance documents that outline employer requirements for protecting workers from coronavirus exposure. They have covered several sectors so far, including agriculture, child care, and grocery stores.

CALIFORNIA WORKERS LOST TO COVID-19



Terrell Young, 52
Sheriff's Deputy, Riverside



David Werksman, 51
Sheriff's Deputy, Riverside



Marylou Armer, 43
Detective, Santa Rosa

But guidance can only do so much in the absence of enforcement. We know that Cal/OSHA is being inundated with hundreds of urgent complaints. Yet Governor Newsom's [Executive Order](#) has directed Cal/OSHA and other agencies to focus on advice and consultation ahead of enforcement. The agency appears to be limiting its regulatory follow-up to letters and phone calls to employers.

If employers are flouting regulations and endangering workers and public health, shouldn't they be confronted and penalized? We are concerned that the forceless response to COVID-19 reflects a longstanding issue that predated the current crisis: Cal/OSHA is an [understaffed agency](#) that is too frequently disregarded by employers and policymakers alike. This, coupled with procedural barriers to effective rulemaking, limits the agency's ability to provide real support for the state's most vulnerable workers.

In the face of such a dramatic challenge to worker safety, we cannot simply advocate for a return to the unacceptable status quo. We must go beyond cheerleading for the normally invisible

yet "essential" and vulnerable workers in grocery stores, pharmacies, post offices, homes, and warehouses.

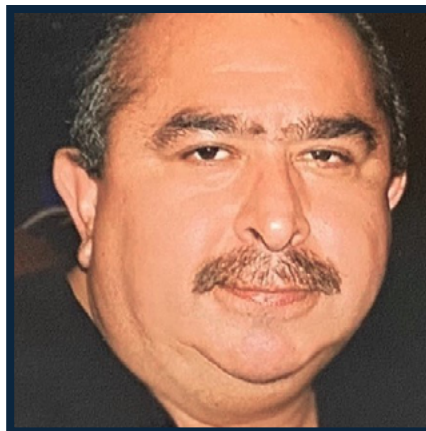
California workers urgently need Cal/OSHA to refocus on inspections and enforcement, and Cal/OSHA urgently needs the staffing, tools, and resources to do so. We need a strong agency to ensure that all California workers can work safely and free from the hazards introduced or exacerbated by the pandemic.

Worksafe is dedicated to this vision of a strong Cal/OSHA, one that is able to provide answers and protections for workers rightly concerned about going to work during a pandemic. California's workers need to know that somebody has their back — and the United States needs a model state health and safety plan that sets a high bar in the absence of federal leadership.

- We need Cal/OSHA to move beyond its advisory role and engage in enforcement by inspecting workplaces and enforcing California's health and safety regulations, including the ATD Standard.



Gerard Tuzara, 35
Amazon Operations Manager,
Hawthorne



Pedro Zuniga, 52
Safeway Warehouse Worker,
Turlock

- We need full staffing of Cal/OSHA – not a return to pre-pandemic norms, but at an increased level that is appropriate for the new threats to workplace safety. California’s workers must be protected from the coronavirus for the long-term. In an era of climate-accelerated hazards, such as wildfire smoke and dangerous heat, we can no longer view disasters as a time to *suspend* worker health and safety protections.
- We need a strong anti-retaliation statement from Cal/OSHA and the Labor Commissioner. California cannot tolerate employers who retaliate against workers for reporting workplace hazards or exercising other workplace rights.
- As always, the agency’s work must be informed by the input of impacted workers, who are true experts with on-the-ground experience. Their voices are critical to developing effective and equitable solutions.
- To better understand the racial inequities of COVID-19 cases and deaths (not to mention

exposure to other occupational hazards), state agencies must modify research protocols so that data can be broken down by race, ethnicity, gender, and language.

In an era of climate-accelerated hazards, such as wildfire smoke and dangerous heat, we can no longer view disasters as a time to *suspend* worker health and safety protections.

History shows that the struggle for workplace health and safety is marked by massive disasters that spur significant action. The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire in 1911. The Hawks Nest Tunnel Disaster in the 1930s. Union Carbide’s destruction of Bhopal in 1984.

The coronavirus pandemic is the occupational health and safety disaster of our lifetime. We must treat it as such, and California should lead the way.

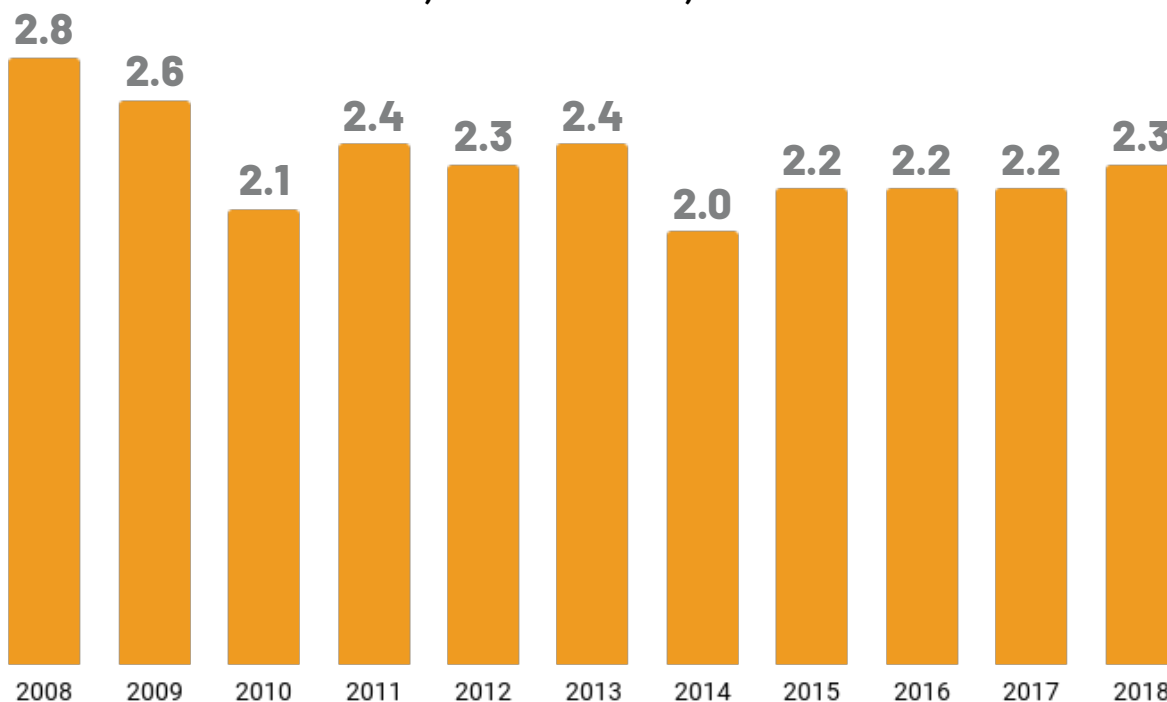
THE HUMAN TOLL

Fatal Workplace Injuries in California

At least 422 California workers were killed on the job in 2018, the latest year for which we have data. That is a 12 percent increase from the prior year, when there were 376 fatal injuries reported. The rise in occupational fatalities from 2017 to 2018 is a cause for concern and a reason to redouble efforts to eliminate workplace hazards.

California's occupational fatality rate is 2.3 deaths per 100,000 workers – a slight uptick from the past few years. As in the past, our state's fatality rate remains lower than the national rate of 3.5 deaths per 100,000 workers. Nationally, there were 5,250 fatal work injuries recorded in 2018.

California Occupational Fatality Rate*
Per 100,000 Workers, 2008-2018

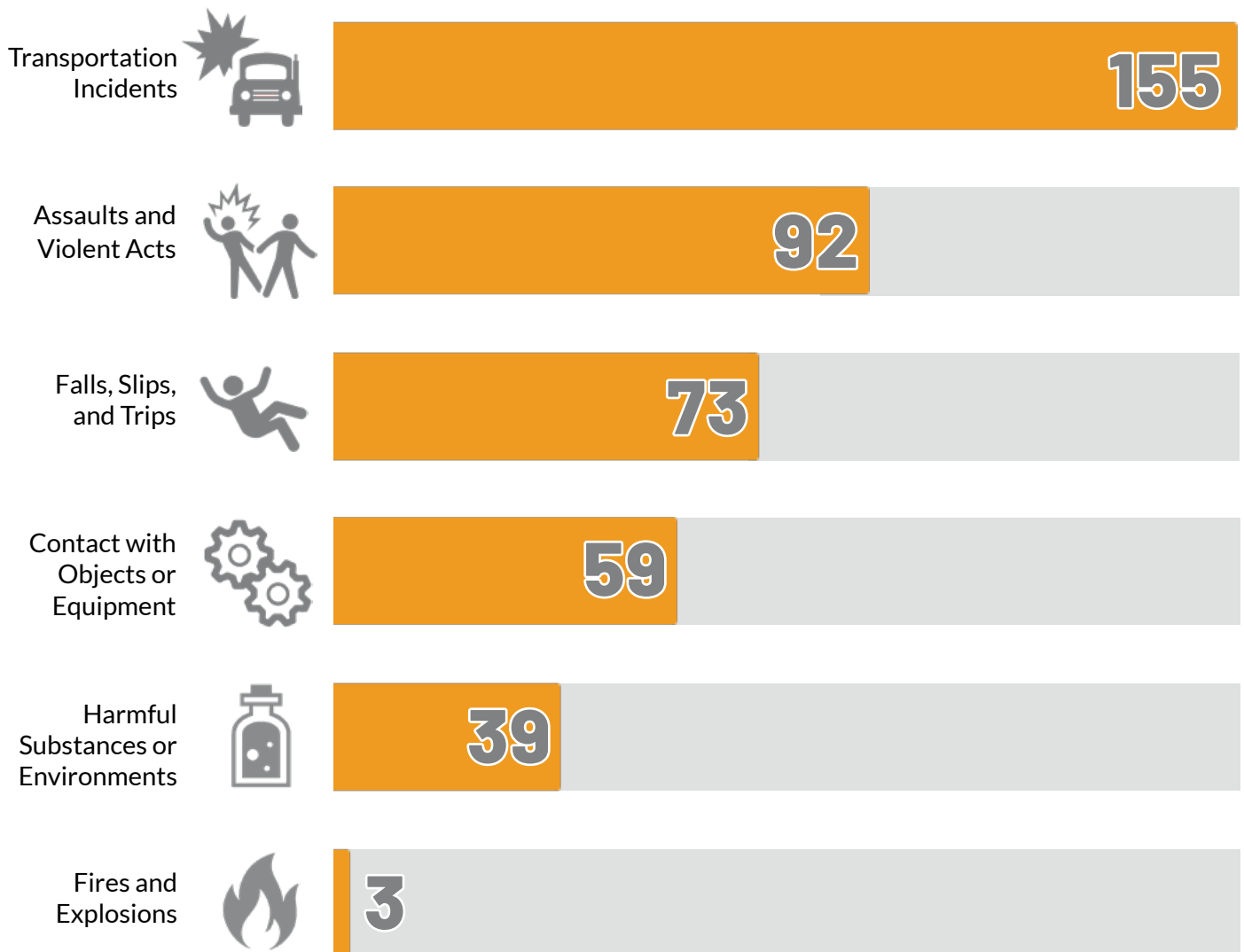


*The fatality rate is the number of deaths for every 100,000 full-time equivalent workers. Rates help normalize for variation in economic activity and employment from year to year, making it easier to see trends and patterns.

In 2018, hundreds of California workers once again died before their time. Each one leaves behind a family, a workplace, and a community forever changed by preventable tragedy. While there have been important advances in preventing worker deaths in California over the years, especially compared to many other states, the sad reality is that workers are losing their lives to the same hazards they have been killing them from for years.

The 40 percent jump in the number of workplace violence deaths from 2017 to 2018 is especially troubling. It is imperative that California complete the rulemaking process for [workplace violence prevention](#) in general industry. Workplace violence is a national public health crisis, and California should be a model for the country in ensuring that employers take reasonable steps to prevent it.

California Worker Fatalities by Event or Exposure, 2018

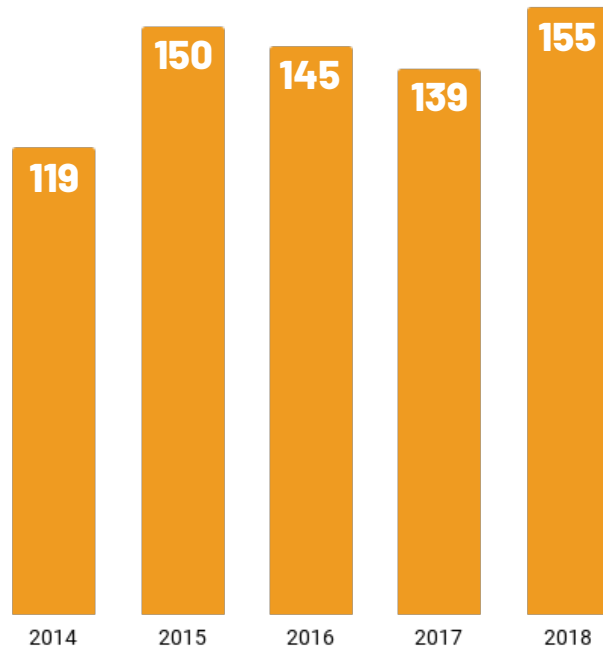




TRANSPORTATION INCIDENTS

Transportation incidents continue to be the most common cause of fatal workplace injury. 155 California workers died in transportation incidents in 2018, representing 37 percent of total workplace fatalities. This is the highest number of transportation-related worker deaths in the past five years.

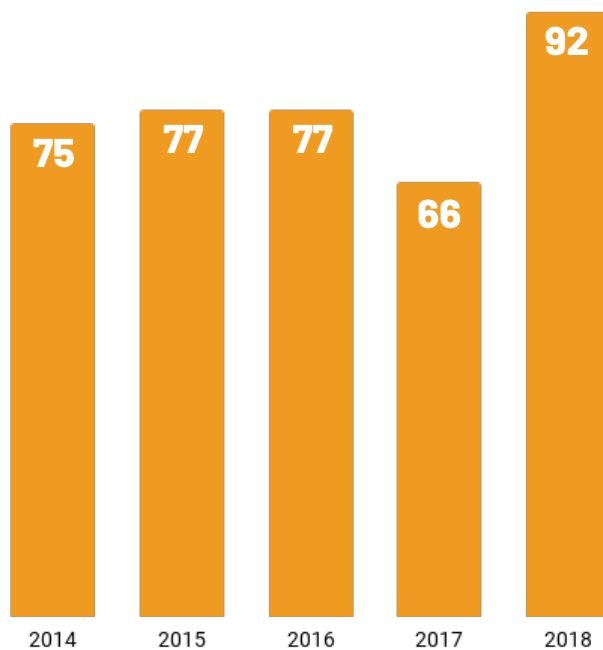
Fatal Transportation Incidents Among California Workers, 2014 - 2018



VIOLENCE

Violence was the second leading cause of workplace death in 2018, killing 92 workers and accounting for 22 percent of all fatal occupational injuries in California. 62 of these deaths were homicides, and more than two-thirds of these involved gun violence. Violence continues to be the leading cause of workplace death for women. 15 of the 38 women killed at work in 2018 were victims of violence, more than 40 percent.

Fatal Assaults & Violent Acts in California Workplaces, 2014 - 2018

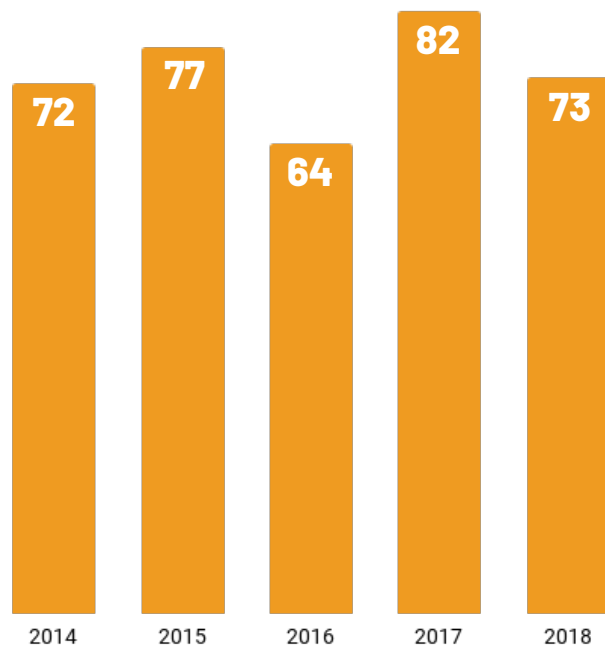




FALLS, SLIPS, & TRIPS

Falls, slips, and trips became the third leading cause of fatal workplace injury in 2018, representing 17 percent of the total. 41 of these 73 deaths were among Latinx workers. Nationwide, there were 791 fatal falls at worksites in 2018. This represents an 11 percent decrease from 2017 when there was a record 887 fatal falls.

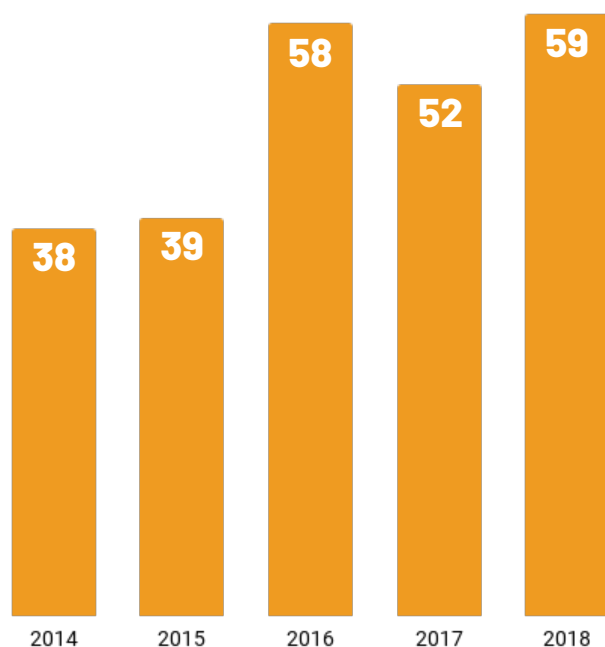
Fatal Falls, Slips, & Trips in California Workplaces, 2014 - 2018



CONTACT WITH OBJECTS OR EQUIPMENT

Making contact with objects and equipment killed 59 California workers in 2018, or 14 percent of all fatal workplace injuries. Since 2014, 246 California workers have lost their lives through contact with objects and equipment.

Fatal Contact with Objects or Equipment Among California Workers, 2014 - 2018

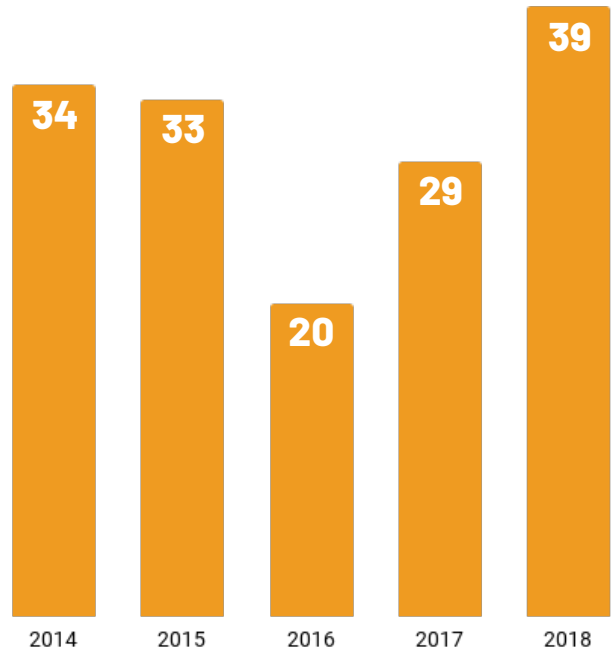




HARMFUL SUBSTANCES & ENVIRONMENTS

Exposure to harmful substances and environments killed 39 workers in 2018, or nine percent of all fatal workplace injuries. This number has jumped considerably in recent years and is almost double what it was in 2016. *Learn more about the dangers of silica exposure on page 14 of this report.*

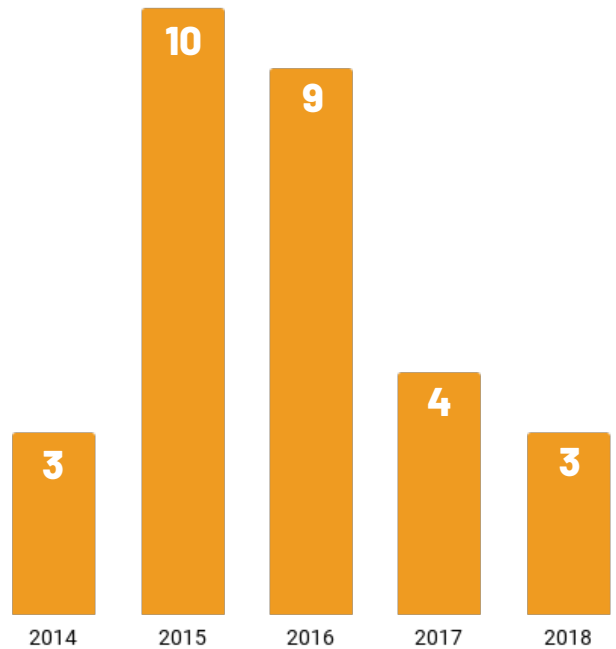
Fatal Exposure to Hazardous Substances & Environments Among California Workers, 2014 - 2018



FIRES & EXPLOSIONS

In 2018, three workers were killed by fire or explosions. *Learn about a preventable explosion that took the life of a SoCal Gas Construction Technician named Wade Kilpatrick on page 16.*

Fatal Fires & Explosions in California Workplaces, 2014 - 2018





Occupational Health Inequities Persist

Access to safe and healthy work is deeply impacted by intersecting social and economic factors. Race, immigration status, language, gender, and age all influence access to jobs, exposure to hazards, and the ability to speak up without retaliation.

190 Latinx workers were killed on the job in California in 2018, making up 45 percent of the total state fatalities. This is a 9.8 percent increase from the 2017 count of 173. Nationwide, 961 Latinx workers died on the job in 2018, representing a six percent increase since 2017. About two-thirds of fatally injured Latinx workers were born outside of the United States.

Nationwide, the number of fatalities among Black workers jumped 16 percent from 2017 to 2018. 615 Black workers were killed in 2018, the highest total in nearly two decades. The troubling increase was reflected in their fatality rate, too, which increased from 3.2 deaths to 3.6 deaths per 100,000 full-time workers.

As in prior years, men are more likely to be killed on the job, both in California and nationwide. Of the 422 workers killed in California, 384

(91 percent) are identified as male and 38 (nine percent) are identified as female. For men, the leading cause of death was transportation incidents (38 percent), followed by workplace violence (20 percent). For women, the leading cause of death was violence (39 percent), followed by transportation incidents (26 percent).

We need a greater understanding of the impact of occupational injury and illness on low-wage workers, workers of color, and immigrant workers. We must address violence in the workplace. We need to invest resources to address the needs of underserved workers as a public health issue.

All workers deserve to receive training, understand the obligation of employers to provide a safe work environment, and have access to care from medical professionals who understand the occupational health issues.

Worker Deaths Reveal New Source of Deadly Silicosis

In 2018, two California workers [died of severe silicosis](#), an incurable lung disease caused by inhaling silica dust. Both worked at the same stone countertop fabrication company, and both were under 40 when they passed away. Four more employees of the same company have also been diagnosed with silicosis.

This information comes from a 2019 [report](#) that documents 18 cases of silicosis among workers in the stone fabrication industry – workers who cut, grind, and polish engineered stone for kitchen and bathroom countertops. These cases are likely just the tip of the iceberg. As of 2018, there were nearly 9,000 establishments doing this type of work, with nearly 100,000 employees. From the report:

Many stone fabrication shops are small-scale operations that might face safety challenges, including limited awareness, expertise, and investment in exposure-control technologies, that can result in inadequate worker protection. In addition, many employees in this industry are Hispanic immigrants, who might be especially vulnerable to workplace health hazards.

Silicosis is preventable, but more must be done to identify and protect workers who are exposed to silica dust. The federal silica standard was updated in 2016, so now is the time to focus on outreach, training, surveillance, and enforcement. The California Department of Public Health's Occupational Health Branch has a web page with links to the article and new safety resources for workers and employers – [check it out here](#).



Occupational Disease Still Miscounted and Misunderstood

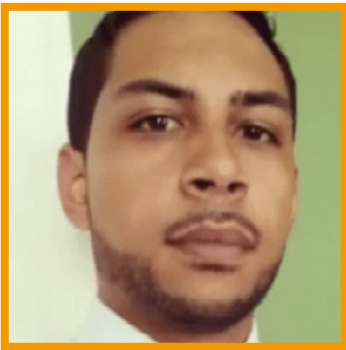
Official figures significantly undercount the human toll of workplace hazards because they reflect sudden incidents, and thus exclude virtually all deaths from occupational illness. The [AFL-CIO estimates](#) that 95,000 people die each year from occupational disease nationwide.

The causal connection between workplace exposures and illness is not always apparent. Diseases and chronic illnesses that are caused by workplace exposures, like cancer, may have long latency periods. This means workers may experience late, missed, or improper diagnosis. In fact, it is estimated that just [3 percent](#) of workers with job-related illness receive workers' compensation benefits.

California urgently needs to complete updates to health regulations, like the lead standard, so that they catch up with science. We also need to expedite the review of permissible exposure limits for the many workplace chemicals still in use that cause cancer, reproductive health damage, and other debilitating illnesses.

THE HUMAN TOLL

Faces Behind the Numbers



**Ismael Martinez-Huertas, 30,
Sanitation Worker**

Ismael Martinez-Huertas was a loving husband and father. He married his high school sweetheart, and the pair had two young sons. He was an active dad – a mentor and protector who would help his boys with homework and sports.

On August 26, 2019, Ismael was fatally injured by the hydraulic arm of his garbage truck. He had reportedly expressed concerns about equipment safety before his death. “If they would have gone and just fixed it the first time, the second time, the third time, the fourth time that he mentioned it [...] he would still be here with us,” his wife told reporters. Hundreds of community members attended a vigil for Ismael, and his family petitioned the Riverbank City Council to construct a memorial in Sorenson Park, near the site of the incident.



**Donatus Okhomina,
42, Electrical
Lineman**

Donatus Okhomina, known as “Dee” to his loved ones, hailed from Mississippi and served in the US Air Force as an Electrical Systems Journeyman. He lived in Dixon, California, at the time of his death and is survived by his wife and four daughters between the ages of six and 17.

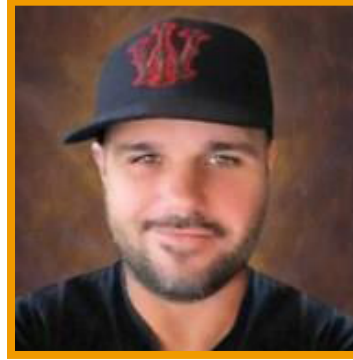
Donatus was an accomplished electrician with more than 20 years of experience, and he was a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1245. He worked at Sacramento Municipal Utility District and PG&E before joining the City of Palo Alto’s utilities department in late 2019. On November 16, 2019, less than a month into his new job, Donatus was fatally injured while working with a five-person crew to upgrade an electrical transformer in South Palo Alto.



Richard Escobedo, 53, Farm Technician

Richard Escobedo was a loving husband, father, brother, and son. He joined the Navy right after graduating from high school in 1984, and he traveled the world twice during his military career. After leaving the Navy, Richard married the love of his life, settled in his hometown of Woodlake, California, and started a family. He worked for Wonderful Citrus, one of the largest citrus growers in the country, as a farm lead technician.

Richard was tragically killed on January 3, 2019, after being struck by a propeller blade that fell from a wind machine. He is survived by his wife, son, stepson, seven siblings, several nieces and nephews, and his mother.



**Brien Daunt, 45
Ironworker**

Brien Daunt passed away on January 12, 2019, while working to construct the new Amazon Fulfillment Center in Bakersfield. He fell 48 feet from a steel structure and was killed when his fall arrest system failed. He had just turned 45.

Brien was a member of Ironworkers Local 433, who had this to say: "Brien took great pride in being an ironworker and loved being part of such a strong sister and brotherhood. Those who worked with him said he was one fireball of an ironworker. Brother Daunt will be greatly missed by all who knew him." He is remembered as a team player, someone who was always ready to lend a hand and enjoy a good joke. He leaves behind a daughter and many loving friends and family members.



**Wade Kilpatrick, 31
Construction Technician**

Wade Kilpatrick grew up in a large family, with six brothers and a sister. He enjoyed target shooting, video games, fishing, and the L.A. Dodgers. Wade started work with SoCal Gas in 2008 and was a member of the Utility Workers Union of America Local 132.

On July 15, 2019, Wade was investigating an outdoor gas leak at a Murrietta residence when a massive explosion shook the property and destroyed the home. He was killed in the blast, and 15 others were injured, including another utility worker and three firefighters. A contractor working at the home, Horizon Solar Power, had failed to call 811 to check for gas lines before digging. "The only reason I lost the love of my life is because the rules were not followed," said Wade's girlfriend.



**Johnny Garcia Jr.,
52, City Worker**

Johnny Garcia Jr. worked for the City of Modesto for 18 years. So did his son. On December 2, 2019, Johnny was driving a truck loaded with tree trimmings to the waste disposal facility when he veered off the road and crashed into a tree, just a half-block from his destination.

Johnny is remembered as a good guy and a family man – a loving father, grandfather, uncle, and boyfriend. Friends and family said that you could count on Johnny for anything. He loved NASCAR and Raiders football, and he was a proud member of a motorcycle club, which held a candlelight vigil in his honor at the scene of the crash. This is the second work-related death of a Modesto city worker in less than two years.



**Sergio Cruz, 32
Construction
Ironworker**

Sergio Cruz was a hard-working father of an 11-year-old daughter. He was also a son, brother, and friend. Originally from Tecate, Mexico, Sergio had worked in construction for eight years and was well-respected by fellow workers. Family members told reporters that Sergio loved his job.

On July 25, 2019, Sergio was fatally injured at a construction site on the UC San Diego campus in La Jolla. A 35-foot tall rebar column collapsed, killing Sergio and injuring three others. He was a member of Ironworkers Local 229, and many union members from other states donated to the GoFundMe page created in his memory. One of Sergio's friends, a former ironworker turned tattoo artist, offered to do memorial tattoos and donate the proceeds to the grieving family.



**Alexandra Kurtz, 26
Deckhand**



**Jesse Martinez, 27
Tow Truck Driver**

Alexandra “Allie” Kurtz was a crew member on the *Conception*, which caught fire and sank off the coast of Santa Cruz Island on Labor Day 2019. 34 people perished in the tragedy, and Allie was the only crew member who was unable to escape. The 75-foot boat was quickly overcome by flames, and most people sleeping below deck, including Allie, were blocked from exiting. It was one of the deadliest recreational maritime disasters in recent history.

Originally from Illinois, Allie loved the sea and was thrilled to be working on a scuba diving boat. According to her family, she was also passionate about reading, the performing arts, rugby, and volunteering. She is remembered as a “free-spirited and determined” young woman who loved life, travel, and adventure.

Jesse Martinez was a family man with three children, known as a hard worker who was always willing to help others. He worked in the Inland Empire as a tow truck driver and enjoyed the work despite long and irregular hours.

On October 7, 2019, Jesse was dispatched to Riverside to respond to a customer in need of a tow for his pickup truck. An argument ensued, and Jesse was fatally shot by the man who called for service. “It is baffling that Jesse went to help this guy and in return was killed,” one of his coworkers told reporters.

A fleet of nearly 100 tow truck drivers joined family and friends for the procession to the cemetery. They honked their horns and flashed their lights in his memory.



**Noe Valle Cayetano, 40,
Tree Trimmer**

Noe Valle Cayetano fell 50 feet to his death while trimming a palm tree at a vacation-rental home in La Jolla on July 28, 2019. Noe was a dedicated family man who worked seven days a week and enjoyed his job. “He was the most kind, loving, caring and courageous man,” his daughter told reporters. “He loved his family, he loved his clients, and he loved everything he did.” Just 40 years old at the time of his death, Noe is survived by his wife, son, daughter, and mother.

The [dangers of tree trimming](#) are frequently underestimated, and arborists continue to die each year in California. There were at least 14 workplace fatalities in 2018 involving tree work across the state.



**Manuel Marquez, 44
Handyman**



**Manuel Villalpando,
61, Laborer**

Manuel “Manny” Marquez was a father, grandfather, son, brother, and friend. He started working at Bottoms Up Sports Bar in Long Beach on October 23, 2019, hoping to make extra money to buy Christmas gifts for his children and grandchildren. He was familiar with the bar because his sister worked there, and he was eager to help out.

That night, a first-time customer opened fire at the bar, and Manny was shot while helping a bartender hide from the shooter. The gunman was killed at the scene and his motive remains unknown. Manny “was just a great guy,” said the owner of the bar. “If everybody had a bit more Manny in them, this world would be a happier, better place.”

Manuel Villalpando was killed at a manufacturing plant in Gardena, California, on February 11, 2019. He was reportedly cleaning a milling machine and was fatally struck when the machine activated while he was inside. Manuel had been with the company for close to a year. The employer, German Machined Products, specializes in machining and assembly for the aerospace industry.

Manuel’s family received an outpouring of support and condolences after his death. The employer is contesting the citations issued by Cal/OSHA for Manuel’s death. In 2014, the company received one serious and four general Cal/OSHA citations for improper guarding of hazardous machinery.



**Christopher Griffin, 49
Lead Rigger**

If you have ever attended the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, you have probably seen Christopher Griffin’s handiwork. He was the show’s lead rigger for many years and was well-respected in the industry. Chris worked with staging companies most of his life, and he had traveled the world working as a rigger and stagehand for several production companies.

On April 16, 2019, Chris suffered a fatal 50-foot fall while setting up a festival stage at Coachella. According to the festival’s production company, Goldenvoice, “he was a hard-working and loving person that cared deeply about his team. As our lead rigger, he was responsible for the countless incredible shows that have been put on at the festival. We will miss him dearly.” Chris is survived by his wife of 23 years and twin teenage daughters.



MISSING MIGUEL

A California Family Copes With Loss after a Workplace Tragedy

Miguel Murillo was loved — a total people person with a giving heart and a great laugh. The type of guy who had friends from all walks of life, young and old. His wife, Melissa, recalls that he would often be recognized by acquaintances at the local grocery store, and he would always take the time to talk to them. He was sweet and considerate that way; a “gentle giant” who was known for his positive attitude and caring personality.

Miguel was born and raised in Southern California. He grew up in Pomona and attended Garey High School where he played football and was a member of the wrestling team. He attended the College of Oceaneering and earned a degree in underwater welding. Along the way, he met Melissa. The pair married in 1998 and started a family — three children whose names all begin with “M” like their parents. He got a job

with a towing company in Anaheim and worked hard to support his young family. In his free time he loved riding his motorcycle, going for swims, and playing guitar.

On April 19, 2019, Miguel did not return home from work. There had been an incident in the tow yard, and Miguel was fatally injured. His family didn’t learn of his passing until the following day. He was barely 40 years old.

Miguel’s sudden death shook his family and community to the core. “I have never seen so many grown men cry at a funeral,” says Melissa. “The funeral hall was completely full for eight hours, and the church was completely full for services.” It all happened so suddenly — one day he was here, and the next day he was gone. How could this happen?

The family wanted answers. After the tragedy, Melissa was forced to navigate the confusing and often impersonal world of Cal/OSHA investigations and workers' compensation filings. The state's health and safety agency is understaffed and under-resourced, and Melissa couldn't help feeling that there was more they could have done to support her.

Families who are impacted by a workplace tragedy deserve to know what happened, says Melissa. They need timely communication, complete transparency, and the empathy of human connection. When there is a workplace fatality, Cal/OSHA begins an investigation into what caused the incident. There is an opportunity to cite employers for failing to keep the workplace safe – things like failing to adequately train workers or have a written safety plan. Employers almost always contest the findings of these investigations, to avoid fines and bad publicity, and some are keen to redirect the blame to the victim. Melissa's family had to deal with all of this while grieving a tremendous loss.

Life has not been the same since last April. The entire extended family misses Miguel greatly, and his absence at family gatherings and events has been heartbreaking. Melissa misses her partner in parenting and has had to mourn the loss of her husband while adapting to single parenthood. She is determined to keep his memory alive, and she encourages her children to talk and share about their dad.

The loss has been hard on the family's finances as well. Miguel's income had been a crucial support for the family, and he did all of the family budgeting. He and Melissa had saved for years to finally buy a home together in 2017. Miguel had many plans to improve the house that were cut short. Now the family has to learn to live without certain things, says Melissa.

The experience has been eye-opening, to say the least. Melissa never thought this type of thing would happen, and she says that she always assumed workers would be protected at work.

And yet, Miguel's future was taken from him, and the future of his family and their path have changed, all because of what the employer should be responsible for. "It makes you feel guilty because he was going to work to provide for us," says Melissa. "But you shouldn't have to die to provide for your family."

At first, Melissa worried that nobody would care about her family's loss. But she wants people to know about Miguel's life and hopes hearing about her family's experience will help others. The drive to help others is central to Miguel's legacy, and she thinks it would make him proud.

Worksafe is currently working alongside Melissa to help her get answers and seek justice in this important case.

If you have lost a loved one to a work-related tragedy and would like to share your experience, please [contact Worksafe](#).

About USMWF

United Support and Memorial for Workplace Fatalities (USMWF) offers support, guidance, and resources to those affected by preventable work-related deaths or serious injuries.

It is an organized community of dedicated family member victims that is driving the transformation of the work environment to safe and healthy conditions for all employers and employees – both today and tomorrow.



HEALTH AND SAFETY FOR ALL WORKERS

Ending the Exclusion of Domestic Workers and Day Laborers

SB 1257 (Durazo) is sponsored by the [California Domestic Workers Coalition](#), [California Employment Lawyers Association](#), [Equal Rights Advocates](#), and [Worksafe](#).

There are over 300,000 domestic workers employed as housekeepers, nannies, and caregivers in private homes throughout California. Most of these workers are immigrant women who work to support their families as primary breadwinners, and they typically work alone in private homes for low wages. In California, there are two million households that rely on domestic workers to care for their homes and loved ones.

Domestic work is essential to the state's economy and enables many Californians to live independently. Yet domestic workers have long been denied basic labor and occupational health and safety protections. This is a historical exclusion, with racist roots, and it is time for it to end.



At last count, nearly 16% of California's workplace fatalities occurred at private homes.

AB 1257, authored by [Senator Maria Elena Durazo](#), will revise the California Labor Code so that “household domestic service” is no longer excluded from the worker protections provided by Cal/OSHA. These changes would also apply to day laborers, another group that has been denied the basic rights they deserve.

The COVID-19 crisis and last year's wildfires have magnified the dangers that domestic workers and day laborers face because they are excluded from Cal/OSHA protections. The health and safety of domestic workers and day laborers have been put at severe risk during these disasters.

During the wildfires, some homeowners expected domestic workers to [continue working](#) in smoky conditions — or even to engage in fire suppression. Others [failed to notify](#) their employees of neighborhood evacuation orders, leaving domestic workers to report to work despite emergency orders to stay away. In the aftermath of the wildfires, many domestic workers and day laborers were tasked with cleaning ash and debris from houses and yards. Many of these workers were given no protective equipment to guard against the toxic environment.

Socorro Diaz, a worker leader with the [Graton Day Labor Center](#), shared her experience during

last year's wildfires. “Right after the fires, I started working cleaning houses that were in the fire zones and whose owners had evacuated. These were houses in which a lot of smoke and ash had entered, and the air was still extremely smoky outside. I knew it might be dangerous, but I had to work because my family needed the money. Very soon after starting this work I started to feel sick.”

And now, with the coronavirus pandemic, domestic workers are once again at the frontlines of crisis. They provide care to people most vulnerable to the illness, like seniors and those with compromised immune systems, often without adequate protective equipment or training. And they themselves do not have access to a safety net in times of crisis, like affordable health care, unemployment benefits, and paid sick days.

Lee Plaza is a worker leader with the [Pilipino Workers Center](#). As a private home healthcare provider, she has first hand experience navigating the coronavirus crisis without adequate protection. “We face health and safety hazards even during normal times,” she says.

“And in my experience the home care agencies and families I work for do not provide protective equipment, information about hazards, or enough safety training. So that's why I'm here fighting for the Health and Safety for All Workers Act, SB 1257. Now more than ever you can see how essential our job is as a home care worker because we can't just stay home. We are out there keeping society running but we need to be taken care of as well,” says Lee.

In these crises, domestic workers and day laborers often have to make the impossible choice between working in unsafe conditions

or losing crucial income. However, they face risks every day – the risk of injury, exposure to infectious disease and household cleaning chemicals, and the very real threat of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse by employers or clients, because of their often isolated and informal work environment.

By removing the historical exclusion to SB 1257, domestic workers and day laborers can have the legal right to health and safety training and protective equipment, and they will be protected against retaliation when they speak out against unsafe working conditions.

Socorro Diaz put it this way: “it is important that we include domestic workers in OSHA protections because occupational safety and health is not a luxury, it is a necessity and right for all workers. Imagine if we had made this change to the law 10 years ago. How many of us would not have been hurt or gotten sick at work? Now is the time to make this change.”

We are calling on legislators to take immediate action to protect the health and safety of ALL workers.

If we fail to act, domestic workers like Socorro and Lee will continue to encounter workplace hazards without the protections afforded other workers.

Please join us in supporting SB 1257.

SB 1257: What’s at Stake for Domestic Workers and Day Laborers?



The Right to Know:

Being informed about what hazards are present in your workplace.



The Right to Protection:

Being provided the equipment necessary to protect yourself from hazards at work.



The Right to Act:

Being able to protect your health and safety without fear of retaliation.

Further Reading:

- [When the Home is a Workplace](#)
- [Domestic Workers Learn From Past Disasters In New Labor Rights Fight](#)
- [Campaign Seeks to Protect Domestic Workers from Everything from Fires to Coronavirus](#)

About the Coronavirus Care Fund

The best way to slow the spread of the coronavirus is to ensure everyone has the ability to stay home. That’s why the National Domestic Workers Alliance created the [Coronavirus Care Fund](#). It will provide emergency assistance to home care workers, nannies, and house cleaners that will enable them to stay home and healthy. You can [donate here](#).



Noe Humberto Tinoco Jr., 22



Austin Stache, 20

GONE TOO SOON

Young Workers and Preventable Fatalities

By Yasin Khan, MPH, UC Berkeley Labor Occupational Health Program (LOHP)

Noe Humberto Tinoco Jr., 22, and Austin Stache, 20, were UPS package handlers who were killed while working at the airport in Ontario, California. The young men were working on tugs – tractor-like vehicles that are used to move dollies loaded with containers to airplanes – when the [vehicle overturned](#) and crushed them.

Both were part-time workers for UPS, and they were killed on November 25th, 2019, at the start of the holiday rush.

In the US, workers under 25 are almost twice as likely to be seriously injured at work compared to their older coworkers. About 12 percent of the workforce in America, or 19.4 million workers, are [under 24 years old](#). Young workers are likely to be inexperienced and unfamiliar with tasks they are being told to do. Many young workers are not aware of their right to a safe and healthy workplace, including training and information about known hazards and control measures, which may increase their risk of being injured at work.

32 (eight percent) of the California workers killed in 2018 were under the age of 25.

More than a third of these young workers were fatally injured by equipment.

Another 30 percent were victims of violence.

Young workers are often eager to prove themselves at work and may be reluctant to speak up and make demands of their employer in the face of ambiguous or unsafe assignments. [Health and safety education](#) that focuses on critical thinking skills, such as being able to identify hazards and problem-solve solutions, is critical to preventing injury among all workers.

Workplace injuries are [predictable and preventable](#). When workers are injured it is important they report those injuries so that unsafe conditions or equipment are changed to prevent further injuries. However, rather than equipping workers with the tools to find hazards and assess their root causes, workplace safety is often framed as the result of an individual worker's actions, rather than the results of structural decisions that are made by employers.

Messages like “work safely, be careful, and pay attention” can make it seem like injuries and illnesses are the result of individual behavior rather than unsafe conditions. Instead of relying on individuals to “stay safe” in unsafe conditions it is critical to identify the root causes and structural factors, such as the presence of

hazards, work overload, and lack of training that result in injuries. For example, in a statement expressing their condolences [UPS said](#), “We are focused on people using safe work habits, and we are cooperating with the authorities in their investigation.” Here the focus is on individual employee actions rather than a structural analysis of what could have prevented the fatalities.

What are the structural factors that could have prevented the tragedy of Tinoco and Stache's deaths? One factor could be the design of the tug. Roofing enclosures on tugs create a closed cab, protecting workers from extreme heat and cold, and vehicle flips. But Noe and Austin were in a tug without a roof; so there was no barrier to protect them when the vehicle flipped over.

Instead of relying on individuals to “stay safe” in unsafe conditions it is critical to identify the root causes and structural factors, such as the presence of hazards, work overload, and lack of training that result in injuries.

Another underlying cause could have been an increasing workload for workers who are involved in shipping. The vast shift in American purchasing from retail stores to online shopping, brought about by Amazon in particular, has put [new pressure](#) on shipping companies like UPS to remain competitive.

Former assistant secretary of labor for Occupational Safety and Health David Michaels [is quoted](#) as saying, “Amazon uses contractors and gig economy workers, and of course these workers have much fewer protections. This

puts pressure on UPS, which then pressures its workers, because the workers at Amazon are paid less and pushed by algorithms to work more quickly.” The strain is being felt by workers. Meanwhile, UPS enjoyed record peak-season profits in 2019, reporting an **8.8 percent increase** from the 2018 holiday season.

Pressure to work faster to manage unsustainable workloads is a known hazard that leads to avoidable injuries and fatalities. In this context, it is critical for young workers and older workers to know their rights, and stand with colleagues to advocate for better conditions to prevent deaths like those of Noe Humberto Tinoco Jr. and Austin Stache.

As the labor pool shrinks and economic hardship spreads related to COVID-19, this is a critical juncture to strengthen worker protections. Families and communities are relying on fewer earners, and workers need to be protected now more than ever.

*The mission of **UC Berkeley LOHP** is to promote safe, healthy, and just workplaces and build the capacity of workers and worker organizations to take action for improved working conditions.*

Safe Jobs For Youth

May is Safe Jobs for Youth Month. Check out LOHP’s young worker resources to learn more about the public awareness campaign to prevent workplace injuries for young workers.

More information is [available here](#).



IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Workers We Lost in 2019

The table below lists 145 work-related fatalities that happened in California last year. We gathered these names from Cal/OSHA, press reports, social media platforms, and other community sources.

Sadly, this list is incomplete. The final count will be at least three times as long. And even that list will omit thousands of people who passed away last year from occupational disease.

There is so much at stake in the struggle for safe and healthy work. At Worksafe, we will keep advocating for workers and urging action to stop the tragic toll in our workplaces. [Join us](#) in this important work on behalf of California's 19 million working people.

FATALITIES IN 2019 A Partial List

#	Date	Name	Age	Occupation	Incident	Location
1	01-03-2019	Richard Escobedo	53	Farm Technician	Worker was turning off a wild machine and was struck by a 600-pound propeller.	Visalia
2	01-03-2019	Julio Hernandez	51	Construction Laborer	Worker fatally struck by vehicle while setting up traffic cones.	Bloomington
3	01-05-2019	Angel Barajas	31	Machine Operator	Worker fatally crushed by the arm of an almond shaker machine.	Cantua Creek
4	01-05-2019	Arnold Torres	66	Farm Supervisor	Worker fatally crushed by the arm of an almond shaker machine.	Cantua Creek
5	01-08-2019	Pedro Avila	36	Truck Driver	Worker died in a collision with another semi-truck.	Stockton
6	01-12-2019	Brien Daunt	45	Ironworker	Worker fell 48 feet from a steel structure and was killed when the fall arrest system failed.	Bakersfield
7	01-14-2019	Guadalupe Martinez Moreno	72	Driver	Employee was working from a ladder when he fell, sustaining fatal head injuries.	Pacoima
8	01-15-2019	Unknown	58	Employee of A Spec Racing	Worker fatally crushed by storage rack and metal bars.	Chatsworth
9	01-16-2019	Mauricio Garcia Oropeza	58	Garbage Collector	Worker fatally crushed between a parked truck and dumpster.	Daly City

#	Date	Name	Age	Occupation	Incident	Location
10	01-16-2019	Mauricio Oropeza-Garcia	59	Garbage Collector	Employee was collecting recycling bins with a side loader, when he was fatally crushed between side loader and a parked vehicle.	Daly City
11	01-25-2019	Mynor Guardado	50	Machinist Operator	Employee was fatally injured while servicing a machine that was not properly de-energized.	Commerce
12	01-27-2019	Gabriel Carrasco	20	Lead Person/ Supervisor	Worker fatally crushed inside a hydraulic powered paper pulp molding press while cleaning it.	Manteca
13	01-31-2019	Miguel Lara Meza	44	Farm Laborer	Worker fatally crushed when his tractor overturned into an irrigation canal.	Holtville
14	02-01-2019	Unknown	72	Grocery Worker	Worker died in fall from ladder.	Pacoima
15	02-01-2019	Juberto Balenton	58	Warehouse Worker	Employee was struck by an unsecured rack, when it fell on him causing fatal injuries.	Chatsworth
16	02-03-2019	Andrew McDowell	29	Ski Instructor	Worker died in skiing collision.	Truckee
17	02-09-2019	Martin Mendoza	55	Maintenance Worker	Worker died in fall from a ladder that broke beneath him.	Torrance
18	02-11-2019	Manuel Villalpando	61	Machine Laborer	Worker cleaning a milling machine was fatally struck when the machine's axis activated.	Gardena
19	02-17-2019	Chris DeBrocky	30	Laborer	Worker died in fall from extension ladder while cleaning gutters at a residence.	Napa
20	02-19-2019	Brandon Allison	37	Engineering Technician	Worker fatally struck by tire rim during maintenance.	Santa Ana
21	02-19-2019	Eleuperio Sanchez Garcia	30	Laborer	Worker fatally crushed by falling bales of cattle feed.	Merced
22	02-22-2019	Victor Garcia	51	Machinist	Worker fatally injured when clothing became caught in lathe.	Montebello
23	02-22-2019	Diego Reyes	55	Roofer	Worker died in fall from roof of two-story apartment building.	Orange
24	02-26-2019	Antonio Silva	45	Warehouse Supervisor	Worker died in fall from ladder while accessing shelved materials in a warehouse.	Anaheim
25	02-27-2019	Francisco Torres-Zepeda	19	Apprentice Laborer	Worker fatally struck by a material-handler while standing next to the equipment.	Rohnert Park
26	03-01-2019	Lyn Huang	39	Machinist	Worker fatally injured after becoming caught in die cutting machine.	Santa Fe Springs
27	03-06-2019	Ramiro Amezcuita-Barba	49	Truck Driver	Worker died after being struck by shattered sheet of glass.	Aliso Viejo
28	03-06-2019	David Luther	56	Spotter	Worker fatally struck by haulage vehicle while managing traffic in a metal yard.	Richmond
29	03-14-2019	Arthur Lewis	69	Security Guard	Worker died in fall from stairwell with an unprotected edge.	Oakland
30	03-18-2019	Ansel Bowman	57	Public Works Employee	Worker fatally crushed by a downed tree while clearing roadside debris.	Mountain Ranch
31	03-19-2019	Marten Yokhanna	40	Mechanic	Worker fatally pinned against a flat-bed car carrier.	Escalon
32	03-26-2019	Christopher Sanford	47	Bobcat Operator	Worker fatally crushed while cleaning a skid-steer loader.	Sacramento

#	Date	Name	Age	Occupation	Incident	Location
33	04-06-2019	Christopher Griffin	49	Rigging Lead	Worker died in fall from stage truss at the Coachella Music Festival.	Indio
34	04-06-2019	John Chioino	77	Carpenter	Worker died from injuries after tripping and falling.	Pacific Grove
35	04-11-2019	Oscar Zuniga Ramos	53	Laborer	Worker fatally struck when a crane collapsed at the worksite.	Oxnard
36	04-12-2019	Luis Orozco-Lopez	31	Laborer	Worker died in fall from ladder while pruning trees at a private residence.	Los Gatos
37	04-14-2019	Paul Rivas	61	Social Worker	Worker died in fall from window.	San Francisco
38	04-17-2019	Jamie Terrazas	58	Gate Guard	Worker was performing maintenance on stationary equipment and was struck by a moving forklift.	Simi Valley
39	04-18-2019	Fernan Camilo	61	Operations & Systems Researchers and Analysts	Employee mooring ship, fell in the water and subsequently drowned.	Wilmington
40	04-19-2019	Miguel Murillo	40	Auto Mechanic	Employee was fatally pinned by tow truck door while removing keys when tow truck lurched forward.	Anaheim
41	04-21-2019	Steve Leighton	72	Administrative Manager	Worker fatally crushed by rear wheels of pickup truck.	Chula Vista
42	04-23-2019	Moises Garcia	54	Lead Compounder	Worker died from burns after falling in tank of hot liquid.	Northridge
43	04-23-2019	Nester Valencia Cervantes	68	Agricultural Laborer	Worker fatally crushed between backhoe and skid.	Tipton
44	04-25-2019	Francisco Ruiz Morales	63	Roofer	Worker fell while installing roof flashing from a ladder that was not properly secured.	Ojai
45	04-27-2019	Bert Tigner	66	Handyman	Worker died in fall through roof panel.	Bakersfield
46	04-29-2019	Ysamar Diaz	25	Mechanical Engineer	Worker crushed by large bale of hay and clamp elevator.	El Centro
47	04-30-2019	Unknown	55	Laborer	Worker fatally injured in backwards fall while removing a clamp from a steel plate.	Fresno
48	05-01-2019	Luis Alejandro Ochoa Sandoval	21	Construction Laborer	Worker was removing a metal gutter and made contact with overhead high voltage lines, resulting in his electrocution.	Arbuckle
49	05-04-2019	John Ramos	55	Inspector	Worker died in fall from wall at construction site.	Bellflower
50	05-05-2019	William Calhoun	52	Facilities Maintenance	Worker electrocuted while repairing office lighting.	Sacramento
51	05-06-2019	Don Deyoung	60	Electrical Mechanic Supervisor	Worker fatally crushed between backhoe and concrete pad.	Sylmar
52	05-09-2019	Tito Ibarra Juarez	57	Farm Worker	Employee was fatally crushed between a backhoe bucket and outrigger.	Le Grand
53	05-14-2019	Luis Gonzalez Valencia	62	Irrigator	Worker died while inspecting the vineyard in an ATV that overturned.	Santa Rosa
54	05-14-2019	Surjit Kaur Basra	61	Farm Laborer	Worker died from exposure to ammonia vapor from a leaking pipe.	Lodi
55	05-15-2019	Jose Santoyo-Arenas	58	Mechanical Engineering Technician	Worker fatally struck by a tire that blew up while getting removed from rim.	San Pedro
56	05-21-2019	Chad Delaine	25	Machinist	Worker fatally crushed in galvanizing line.	Fontana

#	Date	Name	Age	Occupation	Incident	Location
57	05-24-2019	Mike Pena Maza	52	Welder Cutter	Worker fell approximately 40 feet while installing a panelized roofing system on a structure that was hit by a forklift.	Moreno Valley
58	05-29-2019	Timothy Lee Ikola	51	Tree Feller	Worker fatally struck by falling tree.	Seiad Valley
59	06-01-2019	Ramon Morales	50	Welder	Worker died in fall from scaffold.	Porter Ranch
60	06-05-2019	Augustin Hernandez	57	Construction Worker	Worker died in fall from work platform	Cardiff
61	06-06-2019	Alfredo Zavaleta Jr.	38	Pool Cleaner	Worker suffered heat illness and passed away.	Bakersfield
62	06-06-2019	Juan Ulloa	36	Laborer	Worker fatally struck by bailer knocked over by forklift.	Blythe
63	06-07-2019	Fredy Venegas	38	Street Maintenance Worker	Worker died in fall from the city truck he was operating.	North Hollywood
64	06-07-2019	William Reyes	20	Roofer helper	Worker died after falling through a roof to concrete below.	Anaheim
65	06-13-2019	John Menezes II	49	Rancher	Worker passed away after being exposed to a release of agricultural fertilizer chemicals.	Los Banos
66	06-20-2019	Raymond Hernandez Padilla	65	Tractor Operator / Laborer	Worker fatally crushed under tractor.	Madera
67	06-25-2019	Brian Light	59	Service Director	Worker was fatally shot by a fired employee who returned to the workplace.	Morgan Hill
68	06-25-2019	Xavier Souto	38	Parts Manager	Worker was fatally shot by a fired employee who returned to the workplace.	Morgan Hill
69	06-25-2019	Gerardo Abad	18	Construction Worker	Worker sustained fatal injuries when a trench wall collapsed.	Upland
70	06-26-2019	Leopoldo Ramos	56	Construction Laborer	Worker fatally struck by loader driven by another employee.	Galt
71	07-01-2019	Leandro Matwina Gandara	71	Laborer	Worker died from carbon monoxide exposure while using a gas-powered pressure washer.	San Leandro
72	07-02-2019	Fa'aifoohi Ohi	50	Pile-Driver Operator	Worker fatally crushed by crane counterweight.	San Diego
73	07-02-2019	Unknown	53	Driver	Worker suffered heat illness and passed away.	Lancaster
74	07-03-2019	David Tzaput Tzep	23	Sewer Repair Worker	Worker was killed in a trench collapse.	Encino
75	07-03-2019	Joe Rodriguez	54	Electrician	Worker died in fall from forklift safety cage.	Commerce
76	07-03-2019	David Zapute	30	Plumber	Worker was fatally injured while working in an unprotected trench which collapsed.	Encino
77	07-05-2019	Miguel Hernandez	18	Farm Worker	Worker fatally crushed under tractor.	Visalia
78	07-05-2019	Peter Nguyen	49	Painter	Worker died in fall from scaffold.	San Diego
79	07-11-2019	Gamaliel Gonzalez	26	Boilermaker	Worker fatally struck by jack stand plate while working inside a confined space.	Torrance
80	07-11-2019	Jose Luis Enriquez Esquivel	51	Irrigator	Worker fatally struck by an industrial truck while handling irrigation line.	Oxnard
81	07-15-2019	Marilyn Trent	76	Tour Director	Worker died in fall from stairs of a Coach Bus.	Fullerton
82	07-15-2019	Wade Kilpatrick	31	Technician	Worker died in gas line explosion.	Murrieta

#	Date	Name	Age	Occupation	Incident	Location
83	07-16-2019	Alfredo Arce Razo	54	Welder	Worker fatally struck by falling equipment.	Fresno
84	07-22-2019	Elias Eduardo Molina	31	Tree Trimmer	Worker electrocuted when bucket lift touched a power line.	Santa Barbara
85	07-22-2019	Logan Grant Ruhnke	33	Journeyman Lineman	Worker died in fall from utility pole platform.	Quincy
86	07-22-2019	Fernando Fitchett	58	Truck Driver	Worker fatally crushed between truck tire and frame.	Salinas
87	07-25-2019	Sergio Cruz	32	Laborer	Worker fatally struck by a falling rebar wall.	San Diego
88	07-25-2019	Elias Armenta	48	Construction Laborer	Worker was electrocuted when forklift contacted overhead power line.	Chowchilla
89	07-28-2019	Noe Valle Cayetano	40	Tree Worker	Worker fell 50 feet to his death while trimming a palm tree.	La Jolla
90	07-28-2019	Yaroslav Katkov	28	Firefighter	Worker died of heat illness that developed during a physical training hike.	Fallbrook
91	07-31-2019	William Salas Jimenez	56	Farm Laborer	Worker died from heat illness while working in an almond orchard.	Bakersfield
92	08-06-2019	Jose Guevara	51	Laborer	Worker died after falling through fence and striking their head.	Inglewood
93	08-07-2019	Luis Ceja	35	Construction Laborer	Worker died from electric shock and fall from ladder.	Sacramento
94	08-12-2019	Unknown	72	Employee of Securitas Security	Worker drowned in harbor.	Terminal Island
95	08-13-2019	Gabriel Obregon	59	Tree Worker	Worker died in fall from tree.	Magalia
96	08-15-2019	Deshanne Rusk	26	Forklift operator	Worker fatally struck by rotating grape press while cleaning the machine.	Manteca
97	08-15-2019	Nicholson Truong	44	Bus Driver	Worker was fueling propane school buses when a leak occurred, causing a fatal explosion.	Gardena
98	08-16-2019	Alberto De Leon	56	Roofer	Worker died in fall from transition from roof to ladder.	Signal Hill
99	08-16-2019	Agustin Lut	33	Construction Laborer	Worker fell approximately 20 feet and passed away. Neither guardrails nor fall protection equipment were provided.	Ramona
100	08-19-2019	William Parker	67	Water Truck Driver	Worker was filling a water truck using a fire hydrant connection when the fill pipe burst, resulting in fatal injuries.	Le Grand
101	08-21-2019	Jose Reyes	64	Farm Laborer	Worker fatally struck by rolling tractor.	El Centro
102	08-26-2019	Ismael Martinez-Huertas	30	Sanitation Worker	Worker fatally crushed by malfunctioning mechanical arm of garbage truck.	Riverbank
103	08-29-2019	Javier Jimenez, Jr.	37	Pipe layer	Worker was laying pipe in a shored trench when a segment of the steel shoring dislodged and struck him.	Anaheim
104	08-29-2019	Unknown	47	Laborer	Worker drowned in irrigation ditch.	Tranquillity
105	08-29-2019	Florencio Hurtado Duarte	55	Truck Driver	Worker fatally crushed by forklift.	Ripon
106	08-30-2019	Joseph "Joey" Costa	27	Laborer	Worker died after getting caught in conveyor system.	Sonora

#	Date	Name	Age	Occupation	Incident	Location
107	09-01-2019	Alexandra "Allie" Kurtz	26	Truth Aquatics Employee	Worker drowned in ocean after boat caught fire.	Ventura
108	09-03-2019	Unknown	63	Employee of Contemporary Services Corp.	Worker fatally injured in fall on ground.	Los Angeles
109	09-04-2019	Jonathan Ramos	30	Laborer	Worker fatally crushed between branch and steering wheel.	Chowchilla
110	09-05-2019	Patricio Awa	71	Janitor	Worker fatally injured in fall.	Milpitas
111	09-09-2019	George Acevedo Valdez	62	Harvester Operator	Worker was in the process of sweeping almonds when he was fatally struck by the harvester.	Livingston
112	09-10-2019	Jorge Sanchez	57	Painter construction	Worker fell from roof while painting and sustained fatal injuries.	Irvine
113	09-13-2019	Salvador Valladares Mendoza	49	Ranch Hand	Worker fatally crushed between tractor and gate pole.	Hidden Hills
114	09-17-2019	Kent Thayer	58	Roofer	Worker fell through a roof opening, approximately 34 feet to the ground, sustaining fatal injuries.	Riverside
115	09-22-2019	Michael Chavez	65	Teacher	Worker died after tripping on curb and striking head.	Buena Park
116	09-23-2019	Ramon Vera Garcia	65	Laborer	Worker fell from loading dock, sustaining fatal head injuries.	Fontana
117	09-27-2019	Jesse Perez	28	Agricultural Worker	Worker was fatally pinned between a tree and bin carrier he was operating.	Hanford
118	09-27-2019	Melvin Stoughton	73	Heavy Equipment Operator	Worker died when bulldozer rolled off mountainside.	King City
119	09-28-2019	Michael Schwan	64	Manager / Technician	Worker electrocuted while working on an air conditioning unit.	Fresno
120	10-07-2019	Jesse Martinez	27	Tow Truck Driver	Worker fatally shot while working to tow a disabled truck.	Riverside
121	10-09-2019	Jose Arturo Navarro	30	Structural Metal Worker	Worker fatally struck by a moving beam.	Spring Valley
122	10-10-2019	Raymond Glover	81	Security Guard	Worker was walking between two trailers when one trailer started to move, causing fatal injuries.	San Diego
123	10-18-2019	Carlos Garcia	48	Roofer	Worker was carrying roofing material on a roof and fell 11 feet to the ground.	Manhattan Beach
124	10-23-2019	Manuel Marquez	44	Bar Handyman	Worker fatally shot by a bar patron who opened fire at the establishment.	Long Beach
125	10-25-2019	Cornelio Cornejo	48	Tree Trimmer	Worker fell from a ladder while pruning a tree at a residence.	Newman
126	10-31-2019	Joseluis Lopez Gonzales	47	Ranch Hand	Worker was struck by a felled tree.	Red Bluff
127	11-04-2019	Ernesto Vasquez	56	Laborer	While worker on framing, worker fell 13 feet to ground and sustained fatal injuries.	Long Beach
128	11-06-2019	Paul Yakel	50	Chief Financial Officer	Worker was on the roof of a three-story building when he fell into the light well of the adjacent building.	San Francisco
129	11-13-2019	Vy Lam	49	Nail Technician	Worker was in a break room at their workplace and was fatally injured when a fire occurred in the building.	Pico Rivera

#	Date	Name	Age	Occupation	Incident	Location
130	11-14-2019	Victor Ramirez Arellano	40	Agriculture and Food Scientist	Worker was run over by the rear tire of a trailer while working with a crew to collect debris.	King City
131	11-16-2019	Donatus Okhomina	42	Electrical Lineman	Worker fatally electrocuted while working to upgrade an electrical transformer.	Palo Alto
132	11-19-2019	Yuriy Zubarev	24	Lighting Technician	Worker was fatally electrocuted while replacing fluorescent lighting fixtures.	Sonora
133	11-20-2019	Gary Walker	57	Construction Worker	Worker was infected with Valley Fever while working at a construction site, which resulted in his death.	Madera
134	11-21-2019	Juan Viegra	35	Laborer	Worker was fatally injured by a load that fell while being hoisted by a backhoe.	Sherman Oaks
135	11-25-2019	Austin Stache	20	UPS Package Handler	Worker killed when tug overturned.	Ontario
136	11-25-2019	Noe Humberto Tinoco Jr.	22	UPS Package Handler	Worker killed when tug overturned.	Ontario
137	11-25-2019	Salvador Rodriguez-Perez	56	Roofer	Worker fell approximately 10 feet from a roof to the ground, resulting in fatal injuries.	Marina
138	12-02-2019	Johnny Garcia, Jr.	52	City Maintenance Worker	Worker killed when his garbage packer truck veered off the road.	Modesto
139	12-05-2019	Gustavo Sanchez	55	Carpenter	Worker fell to the ground while moving from a ladder to a scaffold platform.	Oakland
140	12-08-2019	Felix Rosales Mazariegos	37	Laborer	Employee was electrocuted while working on an energized light fixture.	Gardena
141	12-14-2019	Teddy Woods	57	Driver	Worker was fatally struck by a moving truck at a warehouse distribution center.	Pomona
142	12-16-2019	Jamie Anibal Hernandez	58	HVAC Technician	Worker fell through an unguarded skylight and suffered fatal injuries.	Camarillo
143	12-17-2019	Rigoberto Lopez Romero	38	Construction Worker	Worker was working in excavation when a concrete slab fell and pinned him, causing fatal injuries.	Sherman Oaks
144	12-20-2019	Ricardo Castorena	29	Lumber Company Employee	Worker fatally pinned between forklift and lumber.	Costa Mesa
145	12-20-2019	Frank Pack	69	Nurse Aid	Employee was fatally injured in an altercation with a patient	Joshua Tree

WORKSAFE

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