

# DYING AT WORK IN CALIFORNIA

Workers Memorial Day  
April 28, 2018

MOURN THE DEAD  
FIGHT FOR  
THE LIVING



**WORKSAFE**



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Worksafe is a California-based organization dedicated to promoting and protecting the basic right of all people to a safe and healthy workplace. We engage in campaigns in coalition with worker organizations and activist networks to eliminate toxic chemicals and other hazards from the workplace. We advocate for protective worker health and safety laws and effective remedies for people who are injured on the job or suffer work-related illness, and we watchdog government agencies to ensure they enforce these laws.

Learn more at [www.worksafe.org](http://www.worksafe.org).



## INTRODUCTION

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### Mourn for the dead, fight for the living

**L**ast year, hundreds of California workers went to work and never came home. Thousands went to work and returned badly injured. This report is about these workers; we want to show you the numbers, we want to share their stories.

Worksafe releases *Dying at Work in California* annually to commemorate Workers Memorial Day, an international day of remembrance for workers killed and injured on the job.

We write this report...

To bear witness to the human toll of unsafe work and unscrupulous employers — because these are names and stories that must be seen and heard.

To inform the public about threats to worker health and safety — because collective understanding begets collective action.

To showcase the importance of publicly available occupational health data — because access to information helps workers push back.

To celebrate recent victories that have made workplaces safer — because our successes reflect our vision of a world where all workers and communities are safe and healthy.

The report opens with an overview of the most recent data available on workplace deaths, injuries, and illnesses — a presentation of the human toll of unsafe work in California. We identify trends and look into leading causes of death, noting hazardous occupations and industries. This year we highlight four special issue areas: workplace violence, temporary workers, wildfire response and relief, and immigrant workers.

When it comes to worker protections, the Golden State continues to lead the nation. Nationally, worker fatalities are higher than they have been in nearly a decade, while California has one of the lowest occupational fatality rates in the country.

But progress can be undone, and the tragic reality is that our workers continue to die from the same workplace hazards that have been killing them for years. We must also remember that official figures significantly undercount the human toll of workplace hazards. As we note throughout the report, a majority of workplace injuries go unreported, and fatality figures exclude virtually all deaths from occupational illness.

The hundreds of workplace deaths documented in this report are the result of preventable health and safety hazards. In addition, there are millions of Californians whose health has been adversely impacted by their relationship with work, not only due to injury and occupational disease, but also due to barriers to health equity rooted in economic insecurity, stress, or the psychological and physiological harms that arise from race, gender and other power imbalances that permeate the workplace.

California can and must do better. A protective workplace safety culture can only occur in the larger context of a worker-centered culture that values and protects workers, their families, and their communities.

A large construction crane is shown against a clear sky. The crane's lattice structure is prominent, extending from the bottom left towards the top right. The background is a gradient of light blue to white.

## ABOUT THE DATA

Dying at Work in California presents an overview of occupational injuries, illness, and fatalities based on the most recent data available from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). As we note each year, comprehensive and accurate workplace fatality data are regrettably difficult to obtain. Official numbers rarely include workers who die from occupational diseases that develop over time, nor do they include individuals whose workplace deaths are mistakenly attributed to natural causes or personal medical conditions. Learn more about the systemic undercounting of work-related health harms on page 16.

Fatality data comes from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) – a collaborative effort between BLS and state agencies. The most recent CFOI data was released in December 2017 and covers deaths that occurred during the 2016 calendar year.

Information about nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses comes from the BLS Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII). These numbers are pulled from employers' Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 300 logs – a document some employers are required to keep that tracks incidents of workplace injury and illness. But not all employers are required to keep OSHA 300 logs. For example, federal agencies, farms that employ fewer than 11 workers, and households that employ domestic workers are exempt. This means that workers who are injured or made ill in these settings are typically left out of national statistics.

## THE HUMAN TOLL

# Occupational Fatalities in California

It is impossible to perfectly quantify the human toll of unsafe work – the families in mourning, the workplaces and communities forever changed. Even if available datasets were complete and released timely (they're not), we know that statistics cannot fully convey the harm.

What we can say with certainty is this: despite decades of progress, the human toll of preventable workplace tragedies continues to be unacceptably high.

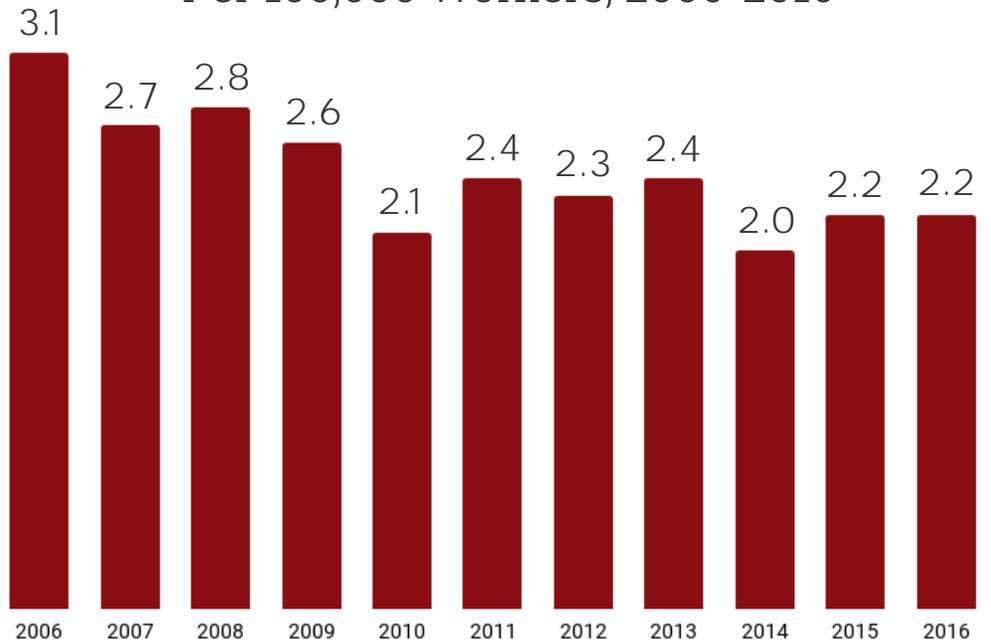
**When employers fail to protect their workers, the public health suffers.**

376 California workers died on the job in 2016. The count is down slightly from 2015, when 388 workers lost their lives. California's occupational fatality rate is 2.2 deaths per 100,000 workers and was unchanged from 2015 to 2016. The fatality rate has fallen over time (down about 40 percent since 1999) and is consistently lower than the national rate, which was 3.6 deaths per 100,000 workers in 2016.<sup>1</sup> See page 14 for other national comparisons.

### Understanding Rates:

One way to understand fatality data is through the use of rates. The occupational fatality rate is the number of deaths that happen 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 identify possible explanations for why workers are dying.

### California Occupational Fatality Rate Per 100,000 Workers, 2006-2016



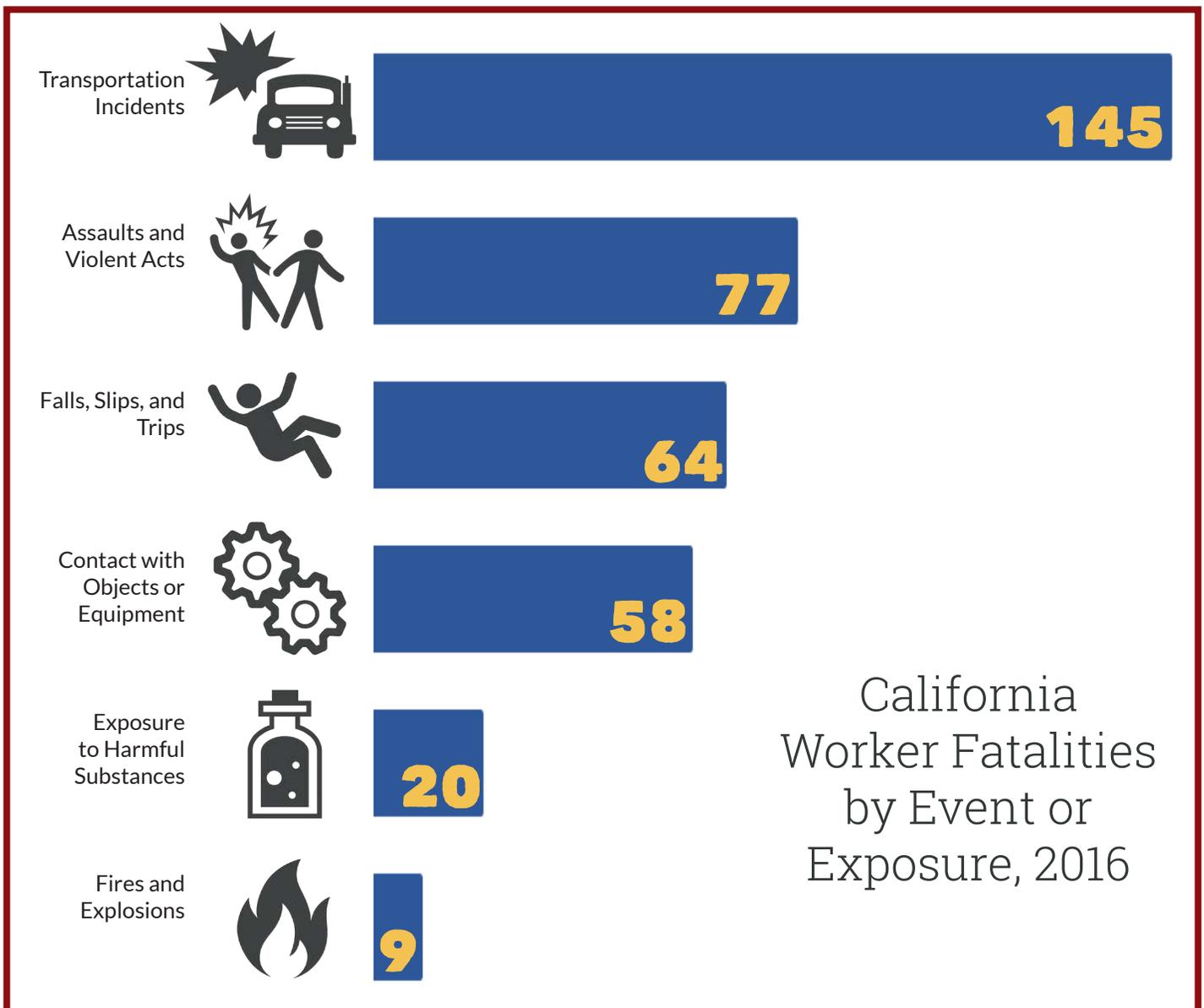
## By Cause of Death

Transportation incidents continue to be the leading cause of worker death in the state, representing 39 percent of the total. 145 workers died in vehicular-related incidents in 2016 and many more have died since. 58-year-old Baudelio “Angelo” Perez, owner of Angelo’s Towing in Fresno, was among them. He was struck by a passing car while assisting a stranded motorist, leaving behind a wife and three children.

The second leading cause of death was violence and other injuries by persons or animals, accounting for 20 percent of all workplace fatalities. 46 of these 77 deaths were homicides and 25 were suicides. 12 percent of all workplace deaths in the state are from homicide. Read more about the complex issue of workplace violence on page 17.

In January 2017, Adolfo Aguirre, a 37-year-old maintenance planner, fell through a skylight while inspecting a roof for leaks. In October, a tree trimmer named Jason Stuart was cutting tree limbs from a Ponderosa pine and fell approximately 70 to the ground.

Sadly, incidents like these kill dozens of California workers every year. 64 workers died from falls, slips, and trips in 2016, making up 17 percent of all occupational fatalities. 91 percent of these were falls to a lower level. Falls are a leading cause of death in construction occupations and in building and grounds maintenance – jobs often filled by immigrant workers and day laborers.



# Transportation Incidents



**Si Si  
Han, 46**

**CalTrans Toll  
Collector**

Si Si Han was killed when a box truck crashed into the Bay Bridge booth where she was collecting tolls. The driver of the truck was charged with manslaughter and felony DUI. Han had been a toll booth collector for CalTrans and a member of SEIU Local 1000 for over ten years.

A former co-worker described Han as “the light of the bridge,” whose presence always made it a better shift. She left behind the husband she fell in love with as a teenager in her native Myanmar, and a daughter. Han was the 36th CalTrans worker to die on the job in District 4, which covers the Bay Area.



**Daniel  
Johnson, 48**

**Public Transit  
Mechanic**

Daniel Johnson, a mechanic for MV Public Transportation in Tulare County since 2014, was retrieving a bus for routine maintenance when the bus was struck by a car that ran a stop sign. The collision drove the bus into a fence, causing it to roll over before bursting in flames. He fought for his life but tragically passed away after two weeks of hospitalization.

Daniel leaves behind two daughters who recount his love of motorcycles and live music, his dedication to church, and his sense of humor. His daughter describes him as “the best dad anyone could ever have.”

## Falls, Slips, and Trips



**Joel Louis  
Maggio, 35**

**Tree  
Worker**

Joey Maggio died after falling while trimming a tree in Willow Creek for the tree service business he started with his wife in 2016.

Joey previously worked as a wildland firefighter, most recently with the elite California Smokejumpers based in Redding. In his seven years as a smokejumper, he completed 129 jumps and fought fires throughout the western U.S. He also served in the U.S. Army, including with the 4th Infantry Division during the invasion of Iraq.

Joey was the youngest of three brothers and left behind his wife and two young daughters.

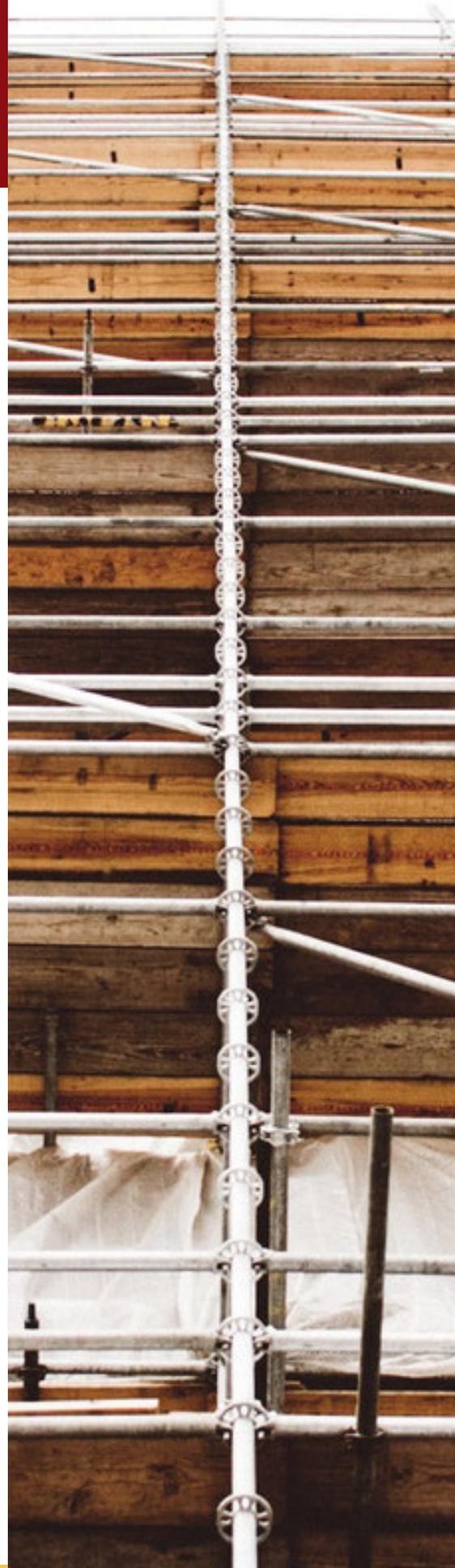


**Daniel Mario  
Colombo, 56**

**Pipefitter and  
Welder**

Daniel Mario Colombo died after falling through a fiberglass light panel while making repairs to a rooftop cooling system. He was employed by Process Cooling International, performing work for Sutter's St. Helena Winery. Cal/OSHA fined both Sutter Home and Process Cooling over \$100,000, though both companies appealed.

Daniel worked as a shipfitter on Mare Island Naval Shipyard from 1979 to 1996 and completed an apprenticeship with the Plumbers & Steamfitters U.A. Local 343. He loved spending time with his beloved dog Boots and with his brothers and family.



## Contact with Objects or Equipment

## Fires and Explosions



**Jeremy Michael  
Booth, 24**

**Tree  
Worker**

Jeremy Michael Booth was killed while operating a brush chipper. Ropes being used in a tree trimming operation were caught in the chipper, wrapping around Jeremy and pulling him into the machine. Cal/OSHA issued seven citations to his employer, Gorilla Tree Service. Penalties totalled \$23,200 and included serious violations for the entanglement hazard and for unguarded machinery. There is no record of Jeremy receiving any safety training.

Jeremy was on the verge of starting a new career as a welder when he was killed. He was the youngest of six children, and left behind two children of his own.



**Fernando  
Martinez, 51**

**Construction  
Worker**

Fernando Martinez was killed when a six-foot, 2-3 ton concrete wall fell onto him at a construction site. Fernando was on his lunch break and went into a trench in front of the wall to eat his food, along with one of his co-workers. The co-worker managed to escape with non life threatening injuries.

Martinez was a 30-year employee of Southland Paving Company in San Diego County and a family man – a husband and father of three young children. He is remembered by his family and co-workers as a man who was “all smiles” and “always had a funny story to brighten your day.”



**Joe  
Zuiches, 42**

**Ski  
Patroller**

Joe Zuiches was a ski patroller and mountain guide at Squaw Valley resort. He died on the job while using a small explosive device to conduct avalanche control. The hand charger he was using to trigger a controlled avalanche exploded unexpectedly.

Joe was an avid outdoorsman who reportedly had more than 50 summits and 15 ski descents of Mt. Shasta under his belt. He is remembered as a meticulous professional, a sharp intellect, and a great friend. Joe is survived by his wife and young son.

## By Occupation and Industry

Workers in transportation and material moving occupations and construction and extraction occupations again experienced more fatalities than workers in other occupations. In 2016, 109 transportation workers were killed, up from 81 in 2015 (a 35 percent increase). 54 construction workers were killed, down from 69 the prior year (a 23 percent reduction).

Other reductions in fatalities by occupation include healthcare (from 20 in 2015 to 5 in 2016) and building and grounds maintenance (from 29 in 2015 to 19 in 2016)

Other increases in fatalities by occupation include repair and installation (from 25 in 2015 to 40 in 2016). Fatalities among workers in sales related occupations increased in 2016, and workplace violence was the leading cause.

## Fatal Work Injury Rates in California by Industry, 2014–2016

INDUSTRY	2014	2015	2016
<b>All Industries</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.2</b>
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	8.2	17.1	10.4
Transportation and utilities	7.9	4.9	7.4
Construction	4.5	6.8	5.2
Other services, except public administration	2.2	1.6	2.5
Public administration	2.2	3	2.3
All Industries	2	2.2	2.2
Wholesale and retail trade	1.1	1.4	1.9
Leisure and hospitality	1.1	1.5	1.7
Professional and business services	2.4	2.3	1.5
Manufacturing	1.2	1	1.1





## Demographic Trends

### Race/Ethnicity and Country of Origin

Workers identified as white made up 43 percent of those killed on the job, while those identified as Asian constituted nine percent, and those identified as Black comprised seven percent. 148 Latinx workers were killed on the job in 2016, making up 39 percent of total fatalities. This is a decrease from the 2015 count of 178. Two-fifths of all workplace fatalities involved workers who were born outside of the United States.

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### **Race in BLS Data:**

BLS data uses the following categories for race/ethnicity: White (non-Hispanic), Black or African-American (non-Hispanic), Hispanic or Latino, American Indian or Alaska Native (non-Hispanic), Asian (non-Hispanic), and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic). Latinx is a gender-neutral term for Latino/a.

### Gender

Of the 376 workers killed in California, 349 (93 percent) are identified as male and 27 (seven percent) are identified as female. This is an unsurprising disparity, consistent with prior years and reflective of gender divisions in employment shaping the job hazards each group encounters. While women are less likely to be fatally injured, they are more likely to suffer from injuries related to repetitive motion and other musculoskeletal injuries.

### Age

Of the 376 workers who died in 2016, 31 (eight percent) were under the age of 25. By contrast, 46 (12 percent) were over the age of 65. Nationwide, workers 65 and older are nearly three times more likely to suffer an occupational fatality than the overall worker population.

## Young Worker

## Older Worker



### Alexis Cedillo-Osorio, 22

#### Choke Setter

Alexis Cedillo-Osorio worked as a choke setter, a job that required him to tie up logs so that they could be hauled away. He was killed in April 2017 by a falling log. It was his second day on the job.

Alexis' fiancée had pleaded with him not to take the logging job because both her uncle and father had died on job-related logging incidents, but Alexis was happy that this additional job paid 25 percent more than the other two restaurants where he worked as a busser and a prep cook. He is survived by his fiancée and infant daughter.

[Read more about Alexis here.](#)



### Jack Rafael Ruiz, 66

#### Pest Control Worker

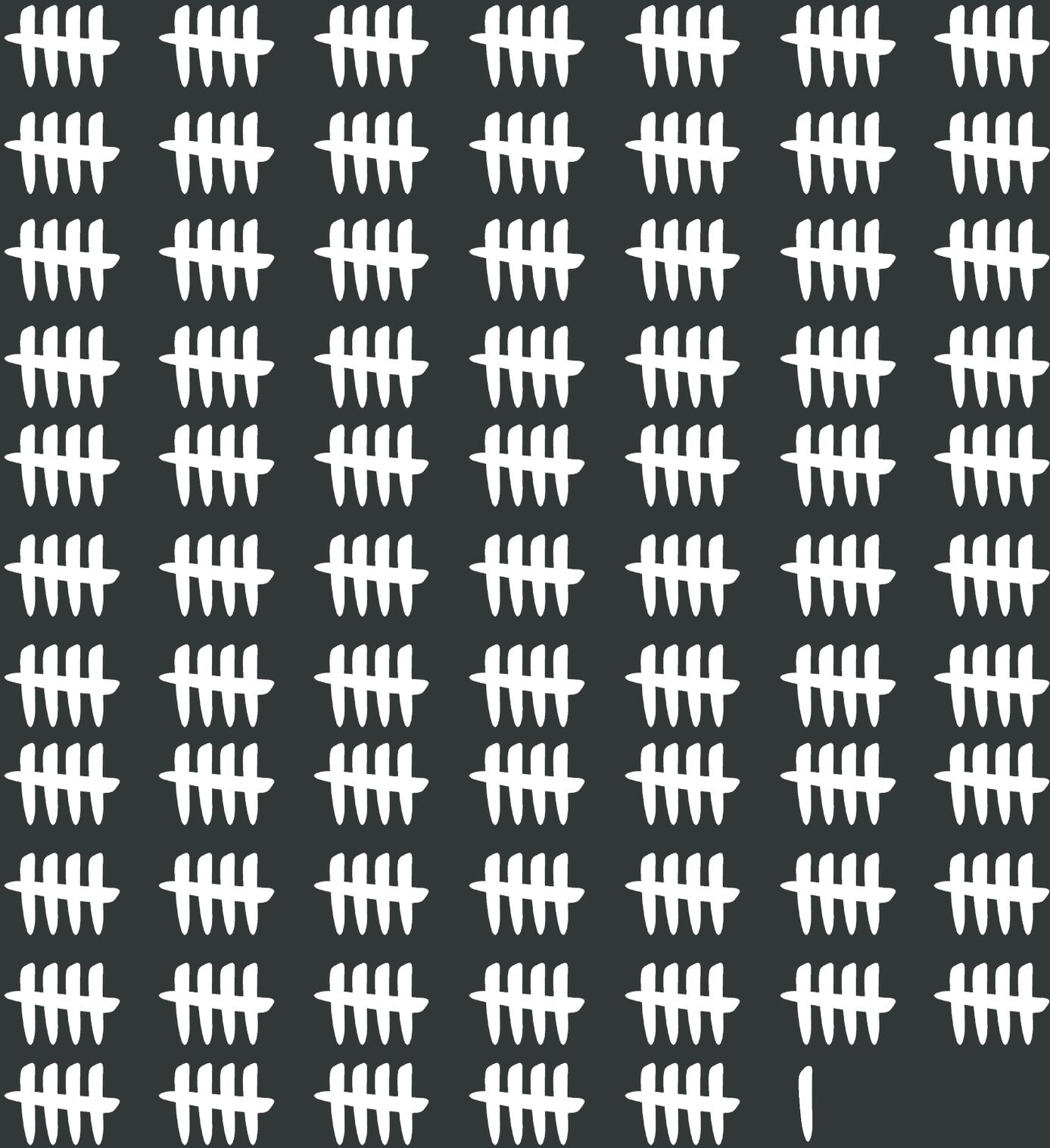
Jack Rafael Ruiz was a pest control worker who was critically injured when he fell to the ground outside of an Escondido home. A co-worker found Ruiz, who had been working alone for a couple of hours, on the patio of the home with a head wound.

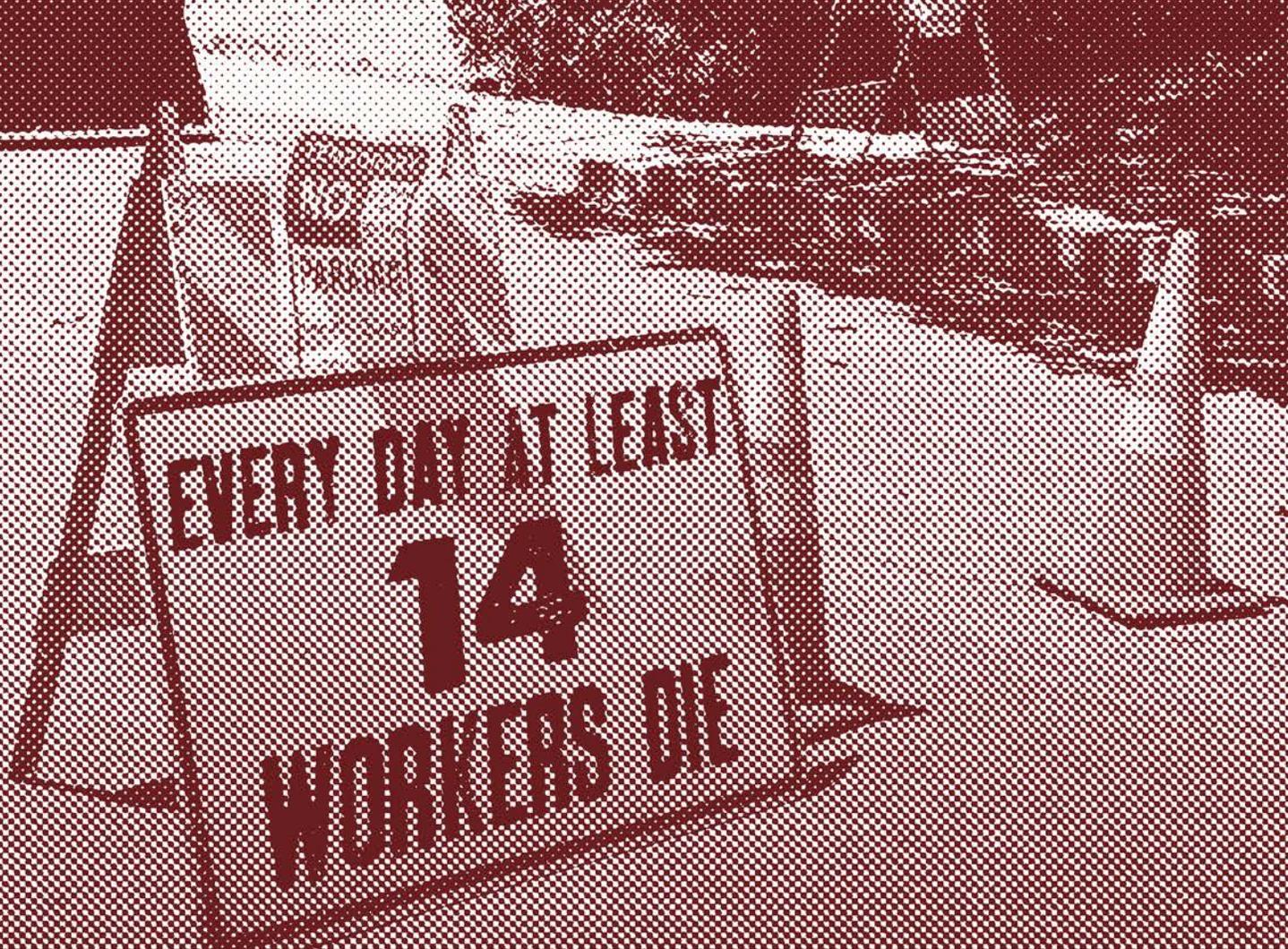
Ruiz was an immigrant from Mexico who had lived in San Diego for the past 30 years. Also a grandfather, his family remembers that he "had a very good sense of humor" and that he was always "full of joy." He leaves behind many family members in the United States and Mexico.

[Read more about Jack here.](#)



**376 California workers were killed at work in 2016.  
Thousands more were injured or made ill from preventable  
workplace hazards.**





## NATIONAL SNAPSHOT

### Workplace Deaths Up Again

Nationwide, workplace deaths are on the rise. 5,190 workers lost their lives in 2016 – the highest count since 2008. This represents a seven percent increase from the prior year and a 12 percent increase since 2012. Around 14 U.S. workers die every single day from preventable workplace traumas and exposures. It is estimated that an additional 50,000 to 60,000 U.S. workers and retirees die each year from occupational illness.<sup>1</sup>

Nationwide, the occupational fatality rate varied considerably between racial/ethnic groups, with Latinx workers continuing to be at high risk for workplace death. In 2016, 879 Latinx workers died, compared with 903 Latinx worker deaths in 2015 and 804 in

2014. The fatality rate for Latinx workers was 3.7 deaths per 100,000 workers in 2016.

970 immigrant workers died in 2016 – the highest count in nearly a decade, representing about one-fifth of all work-related fatalities. The number of fatal injuries among workers from Mexico came down in 2016, but deaths among workers born in Asia and other parts of Central America are on the rise. Immigrant workers continue to bear a disproportionate burden of injury, illness, and fatalities. Read more on page 25 of this report.

## THE HUMAN TOLL

# Occupational Injury & Illness in California

**T**he workplace is a crucial site of health promotion or harm, and working conditions are fundamental social determinants of health. Physical and social working conditions impact our health in complicated ways. A combination of events and exposures over the course of a lifetime can have both acute and cumulative effects.

In 2016 there were 466,600 reported cases of nonfatal work injury and illness, with a rate of 3.7 cases per 100 workers (using 200,000 hours worked as the equivalent of 100 full-time employees). This rate is down slightly from 2015 and is the lowest it has been in over a decade (down nearly 40 percent since 2002).

About 60 percent of these reported cases involved days from work, job transfer, or restricted duty (DART). The overall DART rate remained unchanged from 2015 to 2016 at 2.2 per 100 workers.

There were 30,800 reported cases of nonfatal work-related illness in 2016, with an incidence rate of 24.4 cases per 10,000 full-time workers. The four tracked categories of illness are skin disorders (13 percent), respiratory conditions (seven percent), hearing loss (six percent), and poisonings (one percent). Together, these four areas account for only a fraction of all reported cases of illnesses, with no information available on the remaining 74 percent of illnesses. This means we do not know why over 22,000 California workers are getting sick on the job each year. Learn more about what we don't know on page 16.

### Sources

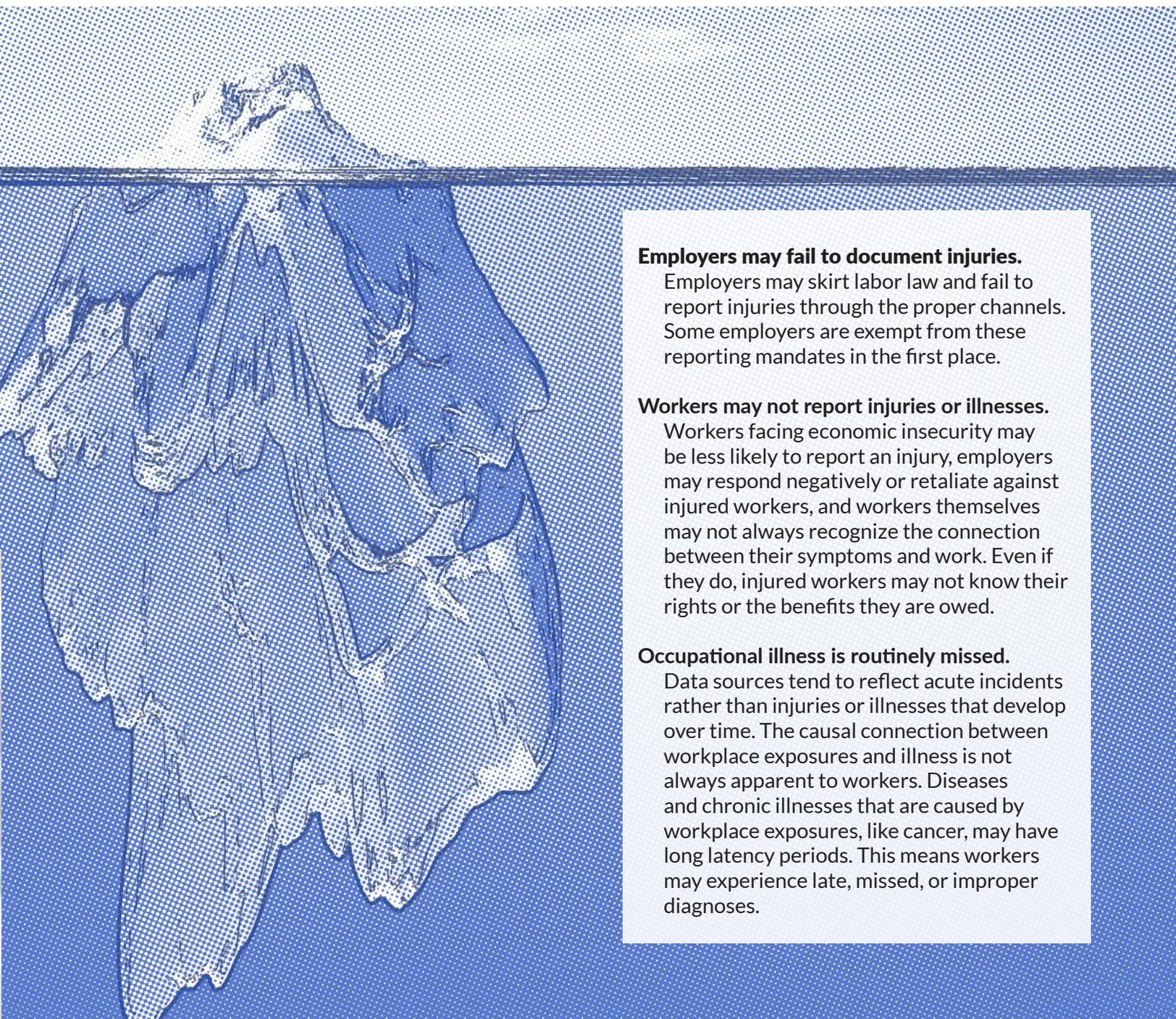
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## THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG

# Understanding the Undercounting

Occupational injuries, illnesses, and fatalities are chronically undercounted. Incredibly, there is no single data source that provides a complete account of occupational injury. This means that the numbers presented in this report – as staggering as they are – represent just the tip of the iceberg.



### **Employers may fail to document injuries.**

Employers may skirt labor law and fail to report injuries through the proper channels. Some employers are exempt from these reporting mandates in the first place.

### **Workers may not report injuries or illnesses.**

Workers facing economic insecurity may be less likely to report an injury, employers may respond negatively or retaliate against injured workers, and workers themselves may not always recognize the connection between their symptoms and work. Even if they do, injured workers may not know their rights or the benefits they are owed.

### **Occupational illness is routinely missed.**

Data sources tend to reflect acute incidents rather than injuries or illnesses that develop over time. The causal connection between workplace exposures and illness is not always apparent to workers. 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 diagnoses.



## SPECIAL TOPICS

# UNSAFE SPACES

## Confronting Workplace Violence in California

Our country's long-standing history of racial injustice has resulted in poverty and inequality in communities of color for generations. The manifestations of these are many including systemic violence that affects people of color but is often minimized. Recent movements such as the #metoo movement that has been given a spotlight by Hollywood has increased awareness to the long-standing issues of sexual violence that communities of color have been trying to bring to the forefront for decades. This also illustrates how certain voices are given more credence over others in our society.

Tragically, the place where we spend most of our time, the workplace, is not immune to violence. In 2016, 500 U.S. workers were murdered on the job.<sup>1</sup> For people of color, specifically African Americans, homicide is the leading cause of workplace fatalities. This is also true for women.<sup>2</sup>

Fatal incidents of workplace violence are often precipitated by behavior like threats or stalking. Studies show conduct or indicators like domestic and sexual violence are pervasive in

all demographics and impact every workplace. Recent investigative reporting has highlighted the devastating impacts of workplace violence, specifically, sexual assault against immigrant women and women of color in low-wage industries such as the janitorial sector, hotel housekeeping, food service, and agriculture.<sup>3</sup>

Similarly, workers of color and immigrants continue to be particularly vulnerable to workplace violence. Consider Outi Hicks, a 32-year old African American carpenter's apprentice who was killed by a coworker at her job site near Fresno, California. Hicks previously complained about her co-worker's harassment, but to no avail. Many underrepresented minorities in the trades report experiencing violence, ranging from microaggressions to assault.

Immigrant workers also face susceptibility to workplace violence. Nationally, at least 37 workers in convenience stores and gas stations, including many workers of color and immigrants, were killed in their workplaces in 2016.<sup>4</sup> At least seven such workers, including at least six workers of color and/or immigrants, were killed in California in 2017. Such workers now also face a heightened threat of targeting for immigration enforcement, as shown by a nationwide immigration sweep of 7-Eleven convenience stores that led to 21 arrests.

Anti-discrimination laws have helped aid individual workers who have experienced sexual harassment or racial discrimination/harassment receive remedial remedies, however, many workers, particularly vulnerable workers, might not enforce their rights for fear of retaliation or intimidation or might not know about these rights. Additionally, these laws are not preventive, but punitive and after the fact. Although, monetary damages

for individual workers might serve as a deterrent, these laws do not adequately address the effects of sexual assault or workplace violence on others in the workplace. The same can be said for our current health and safety laws in California, which do not specifically require employers to take a hard and cohesive look at workplace violence prevention.

Worksafe and allies are working together in state and national coalitions, such as the Ya Basta Coalition and the National COSH's coalition, to help support regulatory prevention measures, identify education and training opportunities highlighting the prevalence/prevention of sexual assault/harassment, and build out and support existing leadership models, such as the use of promotoras to educate workers to draw attention and demand change in the workplace culture using an intersectional lens.

Lawmakers are heeding this call to action and moving legislation to help give workers the tools they need to be safe at work, such as bills requiring panic buttons for hotel housekeepers, and sexual harassment training.<sup>5</sup> Some laws have already been put in place, such as the workplace violence prevention standard in health care, and the requirement of sexual harassment and violence prevention training in agriculture and janitorial settings.

California is on the vanguard of changing the narrative and focusing on workplace violence prevention. Cal/OSHA has started an advisory committee to create a statewide standard for all industries requiring employers to have a plan addressing workplace violence prevention.

Although California is leading the way, the workplace violence prevention in

general industry standard as drafted leaves workers vulnerable to workplace violence. However, Worksafe and allies are working to ensure the standard is as strong as possible by advocating for a standard which includes:

Adequate requirements for employers to assess environmental risks and workplace practices in developing a plan;

Recordkeeping requirements that encourage a preventative approach, monitoring conduct that predicts violence, instead of limiting recording requirements to acts of violence that result in a significant injury;

Worker and worker representative participation in the development, monitoring and access of the plan and violent incident log.

By California taking the first steps towards a general industry standard, we can be the model for other states to follow so as to prevent workplace fatalities and the continuum that precedes it.

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[5] California Assembly Bill No. 1761, (2017-2018 Reg. Sess.) § 6403.7.

# Lost to Workplace Violence



**Mizanur  
Rahman Rasel,  
28**  
**Gas Station  
Attendant**

Mizanur Rahman Rasel, a native of Bangladesh, was shot during an early morning robbery that occurred at 3:30 am. while working as a gas attendant at Chevron gas station in Los Feliz, California.

Rasel had only recently began working the overnight shift at the gas station to support his family and to put himself through an MBA program.

He was an only son in his family and regularly sent money home to his family. Rasel's coworker, Carlos said, called him a "dreamer. Work by night, study by day to make himself better."



**Karen Elaine  
Smith, 53**  
**Elementary School  
Teacher**

Karen Elaine Smith was shot and killed by her estranged husband while teaching in her elementary school classroom in San Bernardino. Smith's husband checked in as a visitor before opening fire in Smith's classroom with a high-caliber revolver, killing Smith and an 8-year-old boy, and wounding a 9-year-old student before killing himself.

Smith and her husband had been married for only a few months. Before their relationship, the husband had been arrested for weapons possession and domestic violence. Smith is remembered as a devoted teacher of children with learning disabilities, who began her teaching career a decade ago after raising four children.



**Frank Navarro,  
35**  
**Security  
Manager**

Frank Navarro was stabbed to death while working as a security manager at a San Jose bar. Media reports indicate he was killed in a dispute over someone being denied entry to the bar.

Navarro had worked in security for ten years, having previously worked as a preschool teacher and an English teacher in China. His first love was coaching. He coached and mentored hundreds of kids in his community, and was president of the local little league baseball association.

His death left friends and family members reflecting on how someone so big-hearted and non-confrontational could be taken away by violence.



## SPECIAL TOPICS

# UNSTABLE WORK, UNSTABLE HEALTH

## How Temporary Work Arrangements Can Harm

**T**emporary workers as a group are among the most at risk for workplace injuries and deaths. Studies have found temporary workers' risk of being injured on the job to range from about fifty percent to two times higher compared to traditional direct-hire employees, depending on the context.<sup>1</sup> For instance, in California, temporary workers are about twice as likely as regular workers to suffer heat exhaustion.<sup>2</sup> And the problem appears to be growing. Between 2008 and 2013, the injury claim rates among California's temporary workers increased, while the rates among non-temporary workers remained the same or fell.<sup>2</sup>

Who are temporary workers?

In general, a "temporary" or "contingent" worker is someone whose work is temporary, unstable, or precarious and often one whose work can be provided to a client employer through a labor intermediary such as a staffing agency. They can also be on-call workers, direct-hire temps, day laborers, and self-employed and part-time workers. Temporary workers tend to be young, female, and Black or Latinx. Specifically, 65 percent are non-white or Hispanic,

compared to 56 percent of non-temp workers, and 21 percent neither have a high school diploma nor a GED, as compared to 16 percent of non-temp workers.<sup>11</sup>

Part of the explanation for worsening safety conditions for temporary workers may be related to their increasing concentration in more hazardous industries and occupations as temporary work has shifted from clerical to more industrial settings. Between 1990 and 2013, blue-collar jobs grew from 28 percent to 47 percent of temporary jobs.<sup>3</sup> Moreover, temporary workers are also frequently assigned to undesirable and dangerous tasks, such as cleaning inside tanks and around heavy machinery, working in high heat, or doing repetitive heavy lifting.<sup>4</sup>

To make matters worse, temporary workers are often sent into hazardous jobs without proper training or safety equipment.<sup>5</sup> Temporary staffing agencies and client employers often pass off responsibilities for ensuring worker safety, from training to providing medical care in the event of an injury. Because staffing agencies are usually responsible for workers' compensation coverage, client employers face fewer financial consequences for workplace injuries suffered by temporary employees and consequently may do less to ensure those workers' safety.<sup>2</sup>

The precarious nature of temporary employment only exacerbates the hazards many of these workers face. Temporary workers are frequently treated as easily replaceable, often have less training about their rights, and tend to lack union representation.<sup>1</sup> Often fearing retaliation, temporary workers are less likely to report hazards, illnesses, or injuries.<sup>9</sup> Even simply starting new jobs more frequently increases temporary workers' risks, because new workers are often not familiar with a

workplace's particular hazards or acclimated to the conditions.<sup>2</sup>

Beyond workplace injuries and illnesses, the precarity of temporary work can also significantly increase job strain, which research suggests can lead to increased cardiovascular disease, musculoskeletal disorders, sleep disruption, psychological disorders, and a shortened lifespan.<sup>2</sup> The financial insecurity and unpredictable schedules of temporary work also often disrupt housing, family, and health security for temporary workers, creating economic and social burdens for workers, their families, and communities.<sup>7</sup>

### What is Being Done?

Several states have enacted legislation in recent years to improve workplace safety and health for temporary workers. For example, Massachusetts requires staffing agencies to inform temporary workers if job assignments require special clothing or equipment,<sup>8</sup> and in 2015 California enacted legislation holding client employers liable for a staffing agency's failure to secure workers' compensation coverage.<sup>9</sup>

Starting in 2017, Worksafe and the Warehouse Worker Resource Center launched a joint initiative called the California Alliance for Secure Employment (CASE) to improve workplace rights and conditions for temporary workers through education and outreach, organizing, policy reform, and legal services.

Find out more at:

[www.warehouseworkers.org/case](http://www.warehouseworkers.org/case).

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## SPECIAL TOPICS

# CALIFORNIA BURNING

## Protecting Workers During & After Fire Disasters

**W**ildfires ravaged California in 2017 – some of the largest to hit the state in decades. The fires left extensive damage in their wake, including the deaths of several workers. At least eight California workers engaged in firefighting or cleanup-related activities were killed last year, including two firefighters who died during training.<sup>1</sup>

As climate change progresses and intense wildfires become what Governor Brown has called California’s “new normal,” more and more workers are experiencing the dangers of fire. In addition to firefighters, thousands of workers are at risk during the rescue, clean-up, and rebuilding phases. Thousands more who work downwind of a fire are exposed to hazardous smoke and particulate matter. There are many unanswered questions about whether workers engaged in firefighting and clean-up related activities are adequately protected by current policy and in practice, and if not, how to better protect those workers.

Among the most dangerous work of firefighting is clearing the brush that fuels wildfires. This work often involves

working long hours in rough terrain with chainsaws and other tools that can cause serious injury. This type of work is often performed by incarcerated workers, who make up 35 to 40 percent of California's firefighting personnel during wildfire season.<sup>2</sup>

Two incarcerated workers died in 2017 fighting California wildfires. In May, Matthew Beck was part of a brush-clearing team in Humboldt County when a tree landed on him, killing him. In July, Frank Anaya was clearing brush in San Diego County when he received fatal injuries while using a chainsaw.

Another firefighting-related death was due to exposure to fire and/or smoke. A California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) engineer, Cory Iverson, was killed in December while fighting the Thomas fire in Southern California. He was trapped by flames while he and his team tried to douse flare-ups.

Other workers support firefighters by delivering water and other supplies. One such worker was Garrett Paiz, a contracted water-tender driver. He was killed in October after the water tender he was driving overturned down a steep hillside. Paiz was delivering water to firefighters battling the Nun Fire, one of several deadly brush fires in Northern California.

Clean-up and rebuilding after wildfires is rife with health and safety hazards for workers. Burned materials release toxic chemicals into the air, ground, and water. The impact on workers is not yet fully known. In addition to exposure to toxic chemicals, workers clearing debris and rebuilding are at risk for the traditional "fatal four" occupational risks of construction: falls, strikes by objects, electrocution, and caught in/between.

One worker died in the Northern California clean-up in such an accident. Ezekiel Sumner Jackson, Jr., a truck driver with almost 40 years of experience, was killed when his truck rolled over him at the Sonoma County landfill. He was working on fire cleanup for a company subcontracted to the federal government's main cleanup contractor at the time, AshBritt Inc. Cal/OSHA cited his employer for bypassing a safety system that allowed the truck to start while Jackson was outside of the vehicle.

The supply of workers for firefighting, rescue, clean-up, and rebuilding relies heavily on incarcerated labor, temporary workers, day laborers, and domestic workers. CAL FIRE runs a Conservation Camp Program to train and deploy incarcerated firefighters. 39 conservation camps statewide house nearly 4,300 incarcerated workers.<sup>3</sup> There are persistent questions about the safety and ethics of using incarcerated labor to fight fires — workers are reportedly paid less than two dollars per hour. The fact that three of the four workers killed while actively fighting California wildfires were incarcerated or contract workers suggests a dangerous safety and training gap between them and CAL FIRE employees.

Temporary workers, day laborers, and domestic workers employed for clean-up efforts may also be at higher risk for occupational illness and injury. These workers are less likely to get adequate personal protective equipment while working in homes that have been devastated by fire, particularly given that the toxic chemicals those workers will be exposed to is still unknown.

Worksafe continues to work with legal aid centers and other stakeholders to protect vulnerable workers employed in the clean-up and rebuilding efforts throughout California.

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## Worker Resources

The UC Berkeley Labor Occupational Health Program (LOHP) has put together a resource list for workers cleaning up after wildfires, available in English and Spanish. [Find it here.](#)

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## SPECIAL TOPICS

# HOMELAND (IN)SECURITY

## The Health & Safety of Immigrant Workers in the Trump Era

California is in a heightened state of alarm over the Trump Administration's anti-immigration policies. The promise to build a border wall, the mass deportation of undocumented immigrants, threats against "sanctuary" states and cities, executive orders on travel bans, the phase out of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). These policies have spurred a state of crisis and fear for immigrant communities.

Unfortunately, the attack on immigrants by our national political leadership has emboldened some employers to exploit already vulnerable workers.

Workers have been reporting to our legal aid and worker center allies an increase in blatant immigration-based retaliation. In a particularly egregious example, an employer responded to a worker's request for proper payment of wages with a series of threats by texts that included messages such as: "Let me share something with you: Not only am I [an ex-]sheriff, my family are all in the police department ... I will handcuff you take you into custody and wait for ICE to come take you in for felony threats."<sup>1</sup>

According to data from the Labor Commissioner, there has been an unmistakable spike in immigration-related workplace retaliation. In 2017, workers filed 95 immigration-related retaliation claims with the agency — up from 20 in 2016 and seven in 2015. Undoubtedly, this is just a fraction of the instances where such threats occurred — the majority go unreported.

The anti-immigrant national climate creates a profound chilling effect on workers' willingness to report workplace health and safety issues. Even without the current wave of anti-immigrant federal policies, workplace injuries and labor code violations have often gone unreported due to worker anxiety about retaliation.<sup>2</sup> The fear of reporting safety hazards is a significant challenge for health and safety in California; it holds the grim record of the state with the highest number of workplace fatalities of foreign-born workers. California also has the second highest number of workplace fatalities among Latino immigrant workers.<sup>3</sup>

In response to federal policies, California has formulated a robust response to protect its immigrant workers. Last year, California passed important legislation to secure the safety and protection of immigrants in California. These include SB 54, the California Values Act, which prohibits California law enforcement officers from inquiring about immigration status or cooperating with federal immigration authorities except in limited circumstances, and AB 450, which requires employers to verify that immigration officials have either a warrant or a subpoena before entering the workplace.

These were important legislative actions, both as substantive policy and as symbols of California's commitment to protecting immigrant workers. However we are still a long way from ensuring that immigrant and other

vulnerable workers can exercise health and safety and other workplace rights without fear of retaliation.

To get there, these workers will need meaningful access to justice, policies to protect the right to organize, and enforcement agencies with adequate numbers of staff possessing the language and cultural competency skills to serve these populations.

Workplace policies alone, however, are not enough to solve this problem. It isn't enough to pass laws designed to ensure equal protections to immigrant workers. Immigrant workers must actually experience equity for us to begin dismantling the structural barriers of race, class, and status that have such profound consequences for their health and well-being.

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

California's historic role as a leading policy innovator for the country is more important now than ever before. With a Federal Administration that treats immigrant workers as an outside class worthy of persecution and is openly hostile to regulations designed to protect workers and the public, California must provide leadership in dispelling the false and cynical narrative that we must choose between jobs and safety.

### 1. Stronger Laws

California's diverse population has contributed greatly to our state's vibrant culture and economic wealth. The working people of California have often been our state's conscience as well, leading social movements that resulted in groundbreaking laws, regulations, and standards, including ones on occupational health and safety and workplace rights. The current political climate is both a challenge and a call to action for new generations and new movements to again bend the arc of California's history towards justice.

In addition to passing employment-related laws to give vulnerable workers access to justice and protect immigrant workers from hateful federal policy, California also needs to continue to increase protections for workers exposed to hazards such as toxic chemicals and workplace violence, and close loopholes that perpetuate precarious work structures. We must also address the structural barriers to prosperity and security faced by the contingent workforce, including

staffing agency workers and other temp workers, digital platform and other "gig economy" workers, and day laborers and others in the informal economy. Workers hired for temporary gigs like disaster relief work or for longer term assignments like warehouse work need laws that (1) limit the ability of employers' to keep them in long term "perma-temp" situations, (2) provide a pathway to stable employment, (3) ensure proper health and safety training and personal protective equipment, and (4) fully protect them in multi-employer settings. Rather than creating an economic environment that incentivizes a temporary workforce, laws need to prevent the prevalence of employment schemes that take advantage of vulnerable workers.

The rule-making process also needs to occur more efficiently to protect workers. Since failure to have protective policies in place could result in preventable worker deaths, we need to address roadblocks in rule-making. An example of one such roadblock is

the “standardized regulatory impact analysis” (SRIA) process which is a mandatory fiscal analysis for any regulation that has the possibility of surpassing the threshold of \$50 million in costs and benefits combined. SRIA can delay the rulemaking process for important standards (such as the General Industry Workplace Violence Prevention Standard) for up to a year, posing significant ramifications for vulnerable workers. Considered duplicative and time-consuming since the standards making process already incorporates a number of public hearings and meetings in which fiscal impact can be discussed, we recommend making Cal/OSHA exempt from SRIA.

With respect to rule-making, a sister to roadblocks is delay. This is most acutely seen in efforts to better regulate worker exposure to toxic substances. Workers need up-to-date Permissible Exposure Limit Standards (PELs) on the wide range of chemicals in the workplace to protect them from prolonged exposure. It is estimated that thousands of people die a year from occupational diseases due to long term chemical exposure.

Although California has been a leader in this area, the process of enacting PELs is notoriously complicated and lengthy due to the sheer number of toxins currently in existence. The rule-making process cannot keep up with the introduction of new chemicals. California needs to examine and adopt a more innovative way to combat delay and protect workers with the best available information as soon as possible. One possible approach is chemical banding, which would allow the establishment of exposure control levels for a ranges of chemicals with common characteristics based upon the available toxicological data.

Workplace protections need to work in tandem with policies that empower vulnerable workers to ensure that they have the meaningful ability to demand those rights and protections. Even with the strongest and most protective workers’ rights, they are nothing without robust anti-retaliation policies. Workers must be able to report injuries, illnesses, and workplace health and safety hazards, as individuals or collectively, with the knowledge that their right to do so will be protected.

Worksafe has long supported efforts to strengthen the state’s anti-retaliation policies including legislation that prevents immigration-related retaliation and remedies such as reinstatement and injunctive relief for workers with pending retaliation complaints. We support and are working toward reforms that provide meaningful exercise of workplace health and safety rights and meaningful access to the justice system. Current proposals include improving worker access to employer Injury and Illness Prevention Plans and extending the remedy of attorneys’ fees to all workplace retaliation cases to supplement the limited resources of the Labor Commissioner and ensure that all low-wage workers can seek justice.

## **2. Robust Enforcement**

Standards are only as effective as the state’s ability and willingness to enforce them. California needs well-funded agencies staffed by culturally and linguistically competent investigative staff in order to serve their principal stakeholders — workers — while creating sufficient deterrents to ensure that all employers comply with the law.



Cal/OSHA has a history as a leader in health and safety, but it is under-resourced and lacks the sufficient number of investigators to properly enforce health and safety laws. California ranks among the worst in the nation in the number of inspectors per worker. Despite modest increases in inspectors in recent years, last year funding for Cal/OSHA staff was inexplicably cut. There are also not enough resources dedicated to the enforcement of health standards. Cal/OSHA needs more resources to properly staff its agency.

The same argument can be made of the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE), commonly referred to as the “Labor Commissioner,” that is tasked with enforcement of anti-retaliation laws. Retaliation investigations by the Labor Commissioner often take over a year to complete. With the increase in retaliation complaints that have been filed in the last year, more investigators are needed to process the complaints in an effective and timely manner.

Moreover, both of these agencies need culturally competent investigators who can speak the languages of California’s diverse workforce. With the most diverse workforce in the nation and a disturbing number of immigrant and Latinx workers who are injured or die at work, it is imperative that California’s agencies have investigators who can communicate with their primary stakeholders: workers.

### 3. Worker Engagement

The cumulative effect of stressors on workers from ongoing occupational health and safety hazards and fear of retaliation results in diminished worker participation and engagement,

and ultimately much more dangerous workplaces. Workers are an invaluable source of information on workplace hazards and solutions for eliminating those hazards. Thus, in addition to stronger laws and enforcement of these laws, training, outreach and support are critical to both protect workers and ensure their engagement with employers in creating a safe and healthful workplace.

Vulnerable workers such as immigrant and Latinx workers, temporary and contingent workers, young and new workers, and day laborers are less likely to receive the most basic language-appropriate workplace safety training from their employers, much less information on their rights. Sometimes worker advocates are the only source of information and training for workers. That is precisely why the Trump Administration sought to slash funds for advocacy groups to provide language specific trainings to workers— without an informed workplace, workers are less likely to demand better working conditions or recognize their collective power.

In light of the Administration’s attempt to stifle worker knowledge, California has to step up. It can do so by increasing state funding for worker education and outreach. California has a statutorily mandated Worker Occupational Safety and Health Training Program (WOSHTEP) that is “aimed at reducing occupational injuries and illnesses and workers’ compensation costs.”<sup>1</sup> WOSHTEP is funded by fees collected from workers’ compensation insurers that are deposited in the Workers’ Occupational Safety and Health Education Fund. Current law limits the amount that the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) is allowed to

collect from workers’ compensation insurers for WOSHTEP. It also allows DIR to refund some of those fees to insurers when certain conditions are met.<sup>2</sup>

We need reform that raises WOSHTEP’s funding and limits or eliminates DIR’s refund to workers’ compensation insurers. Instead of refunding funds to insurers, the funds should be retained to fulfill the intention of the legislature which was to ensure the health and safety of workers. With this additional funding, advocates can provide worker trainings to the state’s most often overlooked workers. Funds can also support injured workers by assisting them with access appropriate occupational health treatment through training for both workers and providers. Funds can also be made available to develop an occupational safety and health research agenda for California that could fuel innovation that cuts across all of Worksafe’s recommendations.

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# IMAGINE A WORLD WHERE EVERY SINGLE WORKER RETURNS HOME SAFE AT THE END OF THE DAY

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Let us commit to another year of struggle.

Let us address the most pressing health and safety threats while contributing to the broader project of reimagining work itself.

Let us imagine that workplaces can promote the health, dignity, creativity, and empowerment of all workers.



## IN MEMORIAM

# Remembering Workers We Lost in 2017

The table below lists 215 documented instances of California workers who died on the job from work-related causes in 2017. We gathered these names from Federal OSHA, Cal/OSHA, media reports, and community sources such as United Support and Memorial for Workplace Fatalities (USMWF).

As we note each year, comprehensive and accurate workplace fatality data are regrettably difficult to obtain. As such, this list is far from complete. It also does not include workers who died from occupational diseases that develop over time, nor does it include the dozens of individuals whose workplace deaths were attributed to natural causes or underlying medical conditions.

Nevertheless, we present this partial list as a way to bear witness to the workplace tragedies that are too often hidden from the public eye. We mourn the loss of these fallen workers, and we recommit ourselves to the fight for workplace health, safety, and justice for all.

### FATALITIES IN 2017 A Partial List

	Date	Name	Age	Occupation/ Employer	Incident	Location
1	01/06/17	Joaquin Ortiz-Calderon	--	Tree Trimmer	Fell from tree when branch broke	Sierra Madre
2	01/07/17	Kenneth Hendren	28	Big Rig Driver	Struck by passing truck while stopped on roadside	Susanville
3	01/09/17	Dave Schrock	40	Lineman	Crushed by falling tree top while fixing a downed power line	Mount Shasta
4	01/10/17	Enrique Sanchez	57	Laborer	Fell from an 8' ladder while painting	Torrance
5	01/10/17	Lisa Ramirez	32	Apartment Groundskeeper	Fatally assaulted by apartment tenant in courtyard	Los Angeles
6	01/13/17	Rufino Calihua	32	Farm Laborer	Struck by the bucket of a backhoe operated by another employee	Desert Center
7	01/13/17	Lance Corporal Austin J. Ruiz	19	US Marine	Killed while participating in a small arms live-fire training	Twentynine Palms
8	01/17/17	Jose Vega	59	Laborer	Crushed while working under an unsecured mechanical dock ramp	North Hollywood
9	01/17/17	Mizanur Rahman Rasel	28	Gas Station Attendant	Fatally shot during a robbery	Los Feliz
10	01/18/17	Robert Cargill	47	Machinery Maintenance	Fell through roof top while making repairs to equipment	Stockton
11	01/19/17	Phuoe Chac	--	DRC Legal Document Services Employee	Asphyxiated while cleaning waste	Fresno
12	01/20/17	Tuon Cao	42	Machine Operator	Caught in machine while setting up milling operations	Placentia
13	01/23/17	Adolfo Aguirre	37	Maintenance Planner	Fell through skylight while inspecting roof for leaks	Chino
14	01/24/17	Joseph Zuiches	42	Ski Patroller	Killed while deploying explosives for avalanche control at a ski resort	Olympic Valley
15	01/24/17	Daniel Johnson	48	Bus Driver	Struck by a car that ran a stop sign	Tulare
16	02/02/17	Julio Gonzalez	39	Farm Laborer	Drowned in river while inspecting a walnut orchard	Valley Springs

	Date	Name	Age	Occupation/ Employer	Incident	Location
17	02/03/17	Everardo Lopez Rosas	34	Laborer	Died of carbon monoxide poisoning while using a concrete saw to cut cement to install underground pipes	Westlake Village
18	02/06/17	Heriberto Rangel-Montoya	39	Tree Trimmer	Crushed by falling tree branch	Sacramento
19	02/06/17	Michael Sullivan	60	Installer	Fell from platform of scissor lift	Carson
20	02/09/17	Robert Gill	54	Construction Contract Laborer	Pinned by dump truck that was clearing debris from highway mudslide	Santa Cruz
21	02/09/17	Sabeno Godoy	64	Laborer	Crushed by golf cart while tending vineyards	San Lucas
22	02/09/17	Name Unknown	50	Manager	Shot by employee during a workplace argument	Los Angeles
23	02/11/17	Aureliano Reyes	48	Roofer/Installer	Slipped and fell 35' while delivering roofing supplies using truck conveyor	Carlsbad
24	02/14/17	Outi Hicks	32	Carpenter Apprentice	Fatally assaulted by a coworker at a jobsite	Malaga
25	02/15/17	Steven Collins	63	Insurance Adjuster	Suffered fatal infection while doing an attic inspection	--
26	02/16/17	Maurilio Perez Garrido	45	Laborer	Fell 12' while dismantling a carport	--
27	02/16/17	John Gill	63	Spotter/Laborer	Run over by moving vehicle while engaged in loading operations	Los Angeles
28	02/16/17	Maclovio Robles	47	Painter	Fell from a ladder jack scaffold platform	Tarzana
29	02/17/17	John Mark Vodanovich	54	Laborer	Crushed by falling tree while parked in vehicle at workplace maintenance shop	Gilroy
30	02/17/17	Jose Lomeli	23	Laborer	Fell through skylight while wrapping vents on a roof	Long Beach
31	02/20/17	Keith Boyer	--	Police Officer	Shot while responding to crash involving driver of a stolen car	Whittier
32	02/21/17	Michael Foley	60	Sheriff's Deputy	Struck by an inmate transport bus at Santa Rita Jail	Dublin
33	02/22/17	Lucas F. Chellew	31	California Highway Patrol Officer	Collided with another vehicle during high-speed chase of a motorcyclist	Sacramento
34	02/26/17	Francisco (Frank) Pancho Navarro	35	Security Manager	Stabbed during an altercation with a customer	San Jose
35	03/03/17	Name Unknown	--	Kimco Staffing Employee	Fell through skylight to the floor below	Long Beach
36	03/04/17	Name Unknown	--	Employee of the Bible Tabernacle	Struck head on ground while jumping from rolling ruck	Bell Canyon
37	03/05/17	Destiny Rose Texeira Borges	20	Yosemite National Park Contract Worker	Struck by falling pine tree during a snowstorm	Yosemite National Park
38	03/06/17	Daniel Collins	47	Laborer	Killed in explosion caused by high pressure valve on a fuel gas container	Desert Hot Springs
39	03/06/17	Roberto Perez Velasquez	58	Helper Mechanic	Fell from ladder while installing a skylight	Fontana
40	03/08/17	Gary Mendenhall		Painter	Fell from ladder while painting the exterior of a residence	Malibu
41	03/10/17	Anibal Parrado	50	Tech Systems Employee	Electrocuted after contact with a transformer	Concord
42	03/12/17	Jose Vega	--	Tree Trimmer	Pinned under palm fronds while tree trimming at a residence	Bakersfield
43	03/13/17	Carlos Fuentes Duran	52	Tractor Operator	Crushed by rolling tractor	Gridley

	Date	Name	Age	Occupation/ Employer	Incident	Location
44	03/15/17	Miguel Angel Martinez	40	Farm Laborer	Killed in jeep rollover during avocado picking operation	Goleta
45	03/16/17	Alfredo Prado	65	Spotter	Run over by truck while directing traffic at a landfill	Hollister
46	03/16/17	Dodanim Garcia	51	Tree Trimmer	Fell to ground while trimming tree	Pomona
47	03/16/17	Miguel Vigil Ruelas	64	Truck Driver	Struck by moving freight train at feedlot	Keys
48	03/18/17	David William Gerush	--	Akela Pest Control Employee	Fatally injured in a fall	--
49	03/24/17	Name Unknown	--	T3 Motion Employee	Died from head laceration	Brea
50	03/29/17	Scott Hinman	61	High School Water Polo Coach	Collapsed while coaching outdoor swim meet, possibly heat related	Irvine
51	03/29/17	Floyd Johnston		Construction Worker	Struck and killed by an excavator	El Monte
52	03/30/17	Jack Ruiz	66	Carpenter	Fell from patio roof during demolition project	Escondido
53	03/30/17	Jose Hernandez	51	Landscape Worker	Struck by truck while working in a landscaped area	North Natomas
54	04/03/17	Fernando Martinez	51	Machine Operator	Crushed by falling concrete wall	El Cajon
55	04/05/17	Jose Sanchez Leal	52	Machinery Maintenance Worker	Asphyxiated when clothing was drawn into a leek processing machine	Salinas
56	04/06/17	Christopher Hiser	21	Tree Trimmer	Struck by falling branch while using an aerial device to trim a tree	Mountain Ranch
57	04/10/17	Marcelino Gorostieta-Nova	38	Laborer	Struck in head by tree trunk during tree trimming operations	Gaviota
58	04/10/17	Karen Elaine Smith	53	Elementary School Teacher	Shot by spouse while working with classroom children	San Bernardino
59	04/13/17	Carl Williams	25	Security Guard	Shot while working security at a motel	Fresno
60	04/15/17	Jorge Moctezuma Garcia	21	Tree Climber	Fell from pine tree	Twain Harte
61	04/18/17	Zachary D. Randalls	34	PG&E Utility Worker	Shot while sitting in his work truck	Fresno
62	04/20/17	Jose Luis Lopez	27	Farm Laborer	Fatally crushed while performing agricultural operations	--
63	04/20/17	Eduardo Nava	42	Drywall Installer	Fell 18' while standing on a stack of drywall installing metal framing studs	Simi Valley
64	04/24/17	Ismael Yopez Enriquez	43	Tree Worker	Fell while trimming a palm tree	--
65	04/24/17	Annette Brooks	61	Caltrans Supervisor	Shot by a coworker during an altercation at a maintenance facility	Rio Dell
66	04/25/17	Alexis Cedillo-Osorio	22	Forestry Worker	Crushed by falling logs while attaching cables as a tree dislodged	Fort Bragg
67	04/25/17	Carlos Arizmendi	50	Operating Engineer	Struck by machinery while unjamming a compactor chamber	Los Angeles
68	04/25/17	Matthew Glover	50	Charity Worker	Shot while gathering door-to-door donations for Care For Children charity	Norwalk
69	04/26/17	Name Unknown	55	Laborer	Struck by moving car on a public road	--
70	04/28/17	Name Unknown	--	Tree Trimmer	Fell while trimming a tree	Altadena
71	04/28/17	Juan Castro	--	Blois Construction Employee	Killed when pickup truck crashed into metal guardrail	Agoura Hills
72	05/02/17	Name Unknown	--	Construction Worker	Killed when excavator tumbled off embankment	Corona
73	05/03/17	Francisco Robles Cardona	54	J&E Texture Inc. Employee	Found unresponsive with injuries consistent with a fall while caulking bathroom walls and ceilings	Buena Park

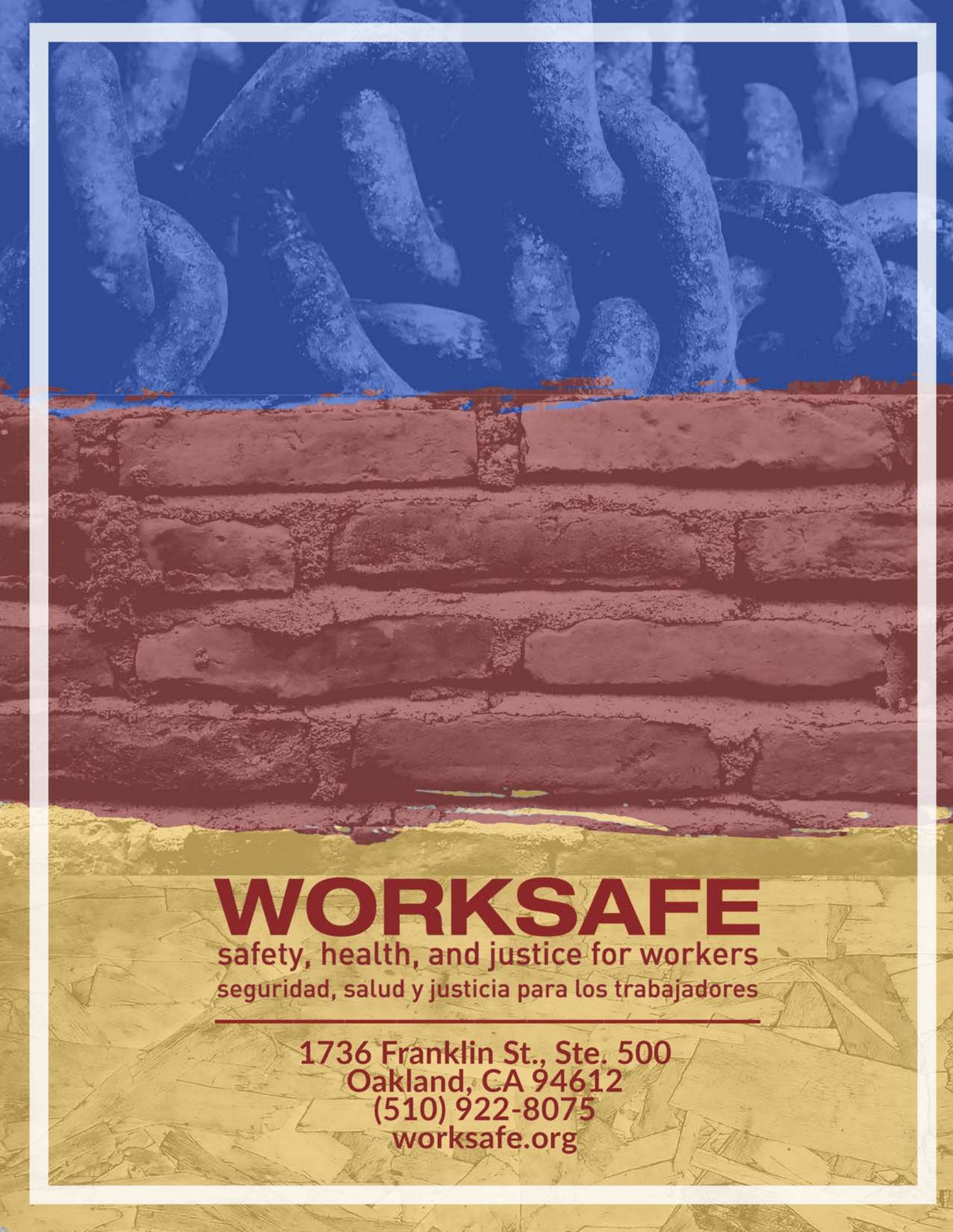
	Date	Name	Age	Occupation/ Employer	Incident	Location
74	05/03/17	Name Unknown	--	Farm Laborer	Became ill from heat while clearing weeds in pistachio orchard	San Joaquin
75	05/03/17	Michael Ferrara	59	City of Benicia Public Works Employee	Killed while driving truck when it crashed and rolled over	Benicia
76	05/04/17	Daniel Mario Colombo	56	Plumber/Pipefitter	Fell 16' through fiberglass skylight panel on roof	St. Helena
77	05/04/17	Jagjeet Singh	32	Convenience Store Clerk	Fatally stabbed by customer after argument over the sale of cigarettes	Modesto
78	05/07/17	Carlos Alberto Martinez	61	Market Owner	Fatally shot by suspected robber	Los Angeles
79	05/08/17	Jon Murray Karkow	55	Pilot	Killed while in single-engine aircraft that crashed after 20-minute flight	Napa County
80	05/08/17	Cagri Sever	41	ICON Aircraft Employee	Killed while in single-engine aircraft that crashed after 20-minute flight	Napa County
81	05/11/17	Ravinder Singh	46	Laborer	Crushed between forks and mast of forklift	--
82	05/11/17	Name Unknown	--	Landscape Worker	Fell ill on January 30th and died on May 11th	Monrovia
83	05/12/17	Name Unknown	--	Truck Driver	Ejected from truck when it overturned on the highway	Redding
84	05/13/17	Jason Garner	41	Sheriff's Deputy	Killed during burglary call when car struck building and caught fire	Modesto
85	05/13/17	Raschel Johnson	42	Community Service Officer	Killed during burglary call when car struck building and caught fire	Modesto
86	05/15/17	John Burnworth	66	Plumber/Pipefitter	Fell off scissor lift when the lift rolled into a ditch and fell to the side	San Ysidro
87	05/15/17	Baudelio Y Perez ("Angelo")	58	Tow Truck Driver	Struck by car on highway interchange while helping another motorist	Fresno
88	05/16/17	Esteban Santa-Maria Pedroza	38	Drywall Installer	Fell off rolling scaffold while taping, mudding, and smoothing drywall	Watsonville
89	05/19/17	Efrain Pina Soria	37	Farm Laborer	Run over by wheel of tractor trailer carrying aluminum irrigation pipes	Salinas
90	05/21/17	John Alan Dickson	58	Surveyor	Struck by car while taking measurements at street intersection	San Bernardino
91	05/22/17	Enrique Ramos	51	Painter	Fell to ground while removing a sign outside of a two-story building	Chula Vista
92	05/23/17	Kamkyo Ramon Gnotsavath	57	Tanker Truck Driver	Killed when tanker truck filled with gasoline overturned and caught fire	Atwater
93	05/24/17	Matthew Beck	26	Firefighter	Struck by falling tree while clearing brush during wildfire	Orleans
94	05/24/17	Name Unknown	--	Field Worker	Collapsed while using weed whacker	Olivehurst
95	05/26/17	Alvaro Quintanilla Valle	38	Construction Worker	Fell through roof opening while removing roof panel	Fremont
96	05/26/17	Name Unknown	--	Plumber	Electrocuted while doing plumbing work when lamp made contact with water source	Bellflower
97	05/27/17	Name Unknown	--	Truck Driver	Ejected from truck after it crashed into guardrail posts and wall on highway	Chino
98	05/28/17	Juan Tovar	41	Construction Worker	Fell to ground while performing new residence framing	Irvine
99	05/31/17	Frederick Von Kahl	56	Construction Worker	Struck by piece of equipment on a drill rig	San Ysidro
100	06/01/17	Jon Charles Green	66	Construction Worker	Caught in heavy equipment loader that fell down an incline and then caught fire	Willits

	Date	Name	Age	Occupation/ Employer	Incident	Location
101	06/02/17	Joel Louis (Joey) Maggio	35	Tree Trimmer	Fell while trimming tree	Willow Creek
102	06/02/17	Jesus Cervantes	--	Farm Laborer	Passed out while cutting vines in a vineyard	McFarland
103	06/03/17	Kelly Wong	29	Firefighter	Fell 55-65' from an aerial ladder	Los Angeles
104	06/05/17	Name Unknown	--	Tree Trimmer	Fell 75'	Pacoima
105	06/05/17	Peter Figge	47	Winemaker	Found dead at vineyard from apparent suicide	Fremont
106	06/06/17	Felipe Guevara-Banda	62	Construction Worker	Struck by cinder block that was knocked off a higher elevation	Torrance
107	06/07/17	Elenilson Garcia	37	Landscaper	Killed when truck accidentally rolled over him	Palm Springs
108	06/07/17	Apolinar Fermin Barcenas	60	Carpenter	Fell 8-10' from ladder	Laguna Beach
109	06/10/17	Jason Sanchez	25	Field Technician	Killed from contact with live energized equipment while working on an electrical transformer	Long Beach
110	06/10/17	Name Unknown	--	Driver	Killed in motor vehicle accident	Pixley
111	06/10/17	Alan Mulder	68	Landscape contractor	Struck by passing vehicle while standing next to work truck	Agoura Hills
112	06/14/17	Michael (Mike) Lefti	46	Delivery Driver	Shot by another employee at morning meeting before making deliveries	San Francisco
113	06/14/17	Benson Louie	50	Delivery Driver	Shot by another employee at morning meeting before making deliveries	San Francisco
114	06/14/17	Wayne Chan	56	Delivery Driver	Shot by another employee at morning meeting before making deliveries	San Francisco
115	06/14/17	Eric Whitcomb	26	Convenience Store Cashier	Shot during a robbery	Lake Elsinore
116	06/17/17	Fortunato Bojorquez Gerardo	49	Laborer	Ejected from tractor when it tipped over	--
117	06/18/17	Nancy Cruz Ibarra	65	Farm Owner	Killed in motor vehicle accident	Fremont
118	06/19/17	Name Unknown	--	Farm Laborer	Killed when tractor veered off road and into concrete canal	El Centro
119	06/20/17	Carlos Lopez	44	Utility Worker	Fell off the back of a moving golf cart and struck head on roadway	Delano
120	06/22/17	Mary Lee Walton	86	Travel Agency Advisor	Fatally fell after tripping over wires	Modesto
121	06/23/17	Jose Alcides Romero Coreas	43	Construction Worker	Killed by fatal chemical inhalation while stripping paint in bathtub	Huntington Park
122	06/23/17	Carl Holman	43	San Francisco Department of Public Works Employee	Shot during trash pickup	San Francisco
123	06/30/17	Alberto Anaya	63	Machine Operator	Killed while pulling portable screw conveyor and wheels became caught on floor crack	San Leandro
124	07/01/17	Name Unknown	--	Painter	Fell from ladder	San Diego
125	07/03/17	Gerardo Balbuena	50	Laborer	Stung by bees resulting in anaphylactic shock	Thermal
126	07/03/17	Mohammad Ataie	57	Gas Station Clerk	Shot during robbery	Antioch
127	07/05/17	Name Unknown	--	Truck Driver	Run over by back tires of work truck after jumping out of work truck before it hit a parked SUV	Los Angeles
128	07/06/17	Gerardo Gomez-Rodriguez	31	Landscaper	Killed by apparent heat illness while working outside	Fontana
129	07/08/17	Antonio Sandoval	56	Tree Trimmer	Fell 60' from palm tree when aerial line accidentally cut with chainsaw	San Diego

	Date	Name	Age	Occupation/ Employer	Incident	Location
130	07/11/17	Edward Cesena	61	Grocery Store Stock Handler	Knocked onto ground while operating baler when pallet jack hit baler	Downey
131	07/11/17	Frank Anaya	22	Firefighter	Cut by chainsaw while clearing brush during wildfire	Lakeside
132	07/12/17	Rocky Anthony Pillion	60	Construction Worker	Fell 10' from scaffold	Loomis
133	07/14/17	Lyndi Fisher	36	Appliance Repair Technician	Found unresponsive on the floor	Lancaster
134	07/19/17	Tommy Echaves	62	Roofer/Installer	Fell from roof	Buena Park
135	07/21/17	Matthew Metoyer	38	Packing & Filling	Fell from ladder while unloading truck with pallets of water	--
136	07/25/17	Simranjit Singh	20	Gas Station Clerk	Shot outside of station by individuals who had earlier assaulted another employee	Sacramento
137	07/27/17	Deborah Holstein	55	Sales Associate	Fell 9' while walking down rolling staircase	Sacramento
138	07/30/17	Chong Suk Hong	62	Men's Clothing Store Owner	Assaulted and stabbed inside store	Victorville
139	08/04/17	Jose M. Diaz-Castellanos	47	Forklift Operator	Struck by two large bags that fell from higher elevation	La Puente
140	08/04/17	Lance Cpl. Cody Haley	20	U.S. Marine Corps Lance Corporal	Struck by tree while doing routine morning physical training	Camp Pendleton
141	08/06/17	Joe Lopez	28	Security Guard	Stabbed while chasing possible thief	Sylmar
142	08/08/17	Paul Inman	43	Caltrans Employee	Killed in head-on collision on highway	Oroville
143	08/09/17	Kirk Smith	49	Construction Worker	Fell through roof with weakened metal	Fresno
144	08/14/17	Edwin Gomez-Zarate	35	Forklift Operator	Caught in forklift while loading and unloading paver stones	Lafayette
145	08/15/17	Jeremy Booth	24	Tree Trimmer	Asphyxiated when rope wrapped around neck and was drawn into wood chipper	Napa
146	08/15/17	Arnulfo Soto	37	Auto Body Shop Worker	Shot following apparent argument or physical altercation	Sacramento
147	08/18/17	Steven Anderson	57	Laborer	Crushed under trailer while unloading	Fresno
148	08/22/17	Joe Cooper	33	Tree Trimmer	Electrocuted while trimming tree branches that ran through energized high voltage power lines	Sacramento
149	08/22/17	John Roshlan	59	Mill Operator	Fell 24' off elevated walkway to walkway below	Turlock
150	08/24/17	Jonathan Fonseca	28	Concessions Manager	Electrocuted while installing lighting components on top of a food vending trailer	Galt
151	08/24/17	Dean Maddalena	48	Carpenter	Drowned while attempting to retrieve boat used to access work location	Beckwourth
152	08/30/17	Robert French	52	Sheriff's Deputy	Worker suffered a gunshot wound and died at the hospital	Sacramento
153	08/31/17	Gary Helming	47	Firefighter	Driving home from a fire, worker had head-on collision	Kettleman City
154	08/31/17	Jamie Rubio	35	Laborer	Killed when pole on golf course tipped over resulting in fatal injury	Calabasas
155	09/01/17	Pedro Douglas-Perez	67	Laborer	Fell from tractor and then run over	Gilroy
156	09/05/17	Erasmus Cortez	37	Roofer	Fall from roof to ground	Colton
157	09/05/17	Carlos Camaros	55	Trucking Company Owner	Pinned between two trucks	Culver City
158	09/06/17	Michael James Brown	49	Truck Driver	Killed when water truck rolled over roadway edge	--

	Date	Name	Age	Occupation/ Employer	Incident	Location
159	09/06/17	Jerry Downs	62	Middle School Band Director	Run over by rolling car	Pacifica
160	09/08/17	Jose Arenas-Flores	31	Logger	Pulled up from ground by wire rigging and then flung down	Fort Bragg
161	09/09/17	David Gomez	31	Stocker	Struck by falling boxes while arranging supplies in storage room	Fontana
162	09/13/17	Eduardo Gonzalez	51	Construction Worker	Run over by tractor while conducting soil test	Fontana
163	09/14/17	Maclovio Lopez	62	Truck Driver	Killed in collision between two big rigs and a sedan	Castro Valley
164	09/19/17	Wayne Chandler	47	Communication Equipment Manager	Bitten by a spider when entering a man-hole to locate buried service line	Victorville
165	09/21/17	Adan Guerrero Villa	60	Vineyard Worker	Pinned between trailer and pickup truck while trying to load forklift onto trailer	Lompoc
166	09/21/17	Jesse Campos	27	Assistant Mechanic	Crushed between tub and trailer frame of a side dump trailer	Arvin
167	09/22/17	Omar Reyes Ortega	37	Kurios Towing & Storage Employee	Crushed under vehicle that fell while unloading vehicles from trailer	San Diego
168	09/22/17	Konstantinos "Gus" Vardakastanis	57	Market Owner	Hit by a car while crossing the street to purchase goods for store	San Francisco
169	09/28/17	Gil Rojas-Marin	59	Farm Laborer	Struck by bale of hay and pushed into tractor bucket	Escalon
170	10/02/17	David James Strobridge	22	Sanitation Worker	Pinned between recycling truck and wall	La Jolla
171	10/04/17	Jose Armando Cruz Martinez	44	Laborer	Fell 11' from scissor lift to ground	Riverside
172	10/16/17	Jason Stuart	35	Tree Trimmer	Fell 70' from tree to ground	Groveland
173	10/16/17	Jose Manuel Gomez Hernandez	30	Carpenter/Forklift Operator	Crushed when forklift tipped over	Santa Ana
174	10/16/17	Jason Alan Stuart	35	Tree Trimmer	Fell 80-100' from tree	Groveland
175	10/16/17	Garrett Angel Paiz	38	Contract water tender driver	Crashed through guardrail while on water resupply run during wildfire	Napa
176	10/18/17	Carlos Alberto Tinoco-Pamatz	36	Laborer	Ejected from tractor after it crashed down embankment	Chualar
177	10/20/17	Galen Dulany	58	Laborer	Pulled into conveyor while in operation	Long Beach
178	10/21/17	Balbir Singh	69	Security Guard	Struck by 30' long, 6' high gate while closing it	--
179	10/21/17	Kyle Crull	28	Tow Truck Driver	Struck by car while assisting another motorist on the highway	San Bernardino
180	10/22/17	Ermilo Gonzales Jr.	62	Truck Driver	Killed while driving truck when it veered off the freeway and crashed into fence	San Ramon
181	10/23/17	Ramon Ayala	49	Tree Trimmer	Fell 10 to 15' without properly connected/tied off fall protection equipment	--
182	10/23/17	Bill Bradbury	37	Boy Scout Camp Staffer	Killed while driving tractor when it tumbled down embankment	Fairfax
183	10/24/17	Stephen Parr	63	Film Archivist	Found unresponsive	San Francisco
184	10/25/17	Roberto Melgoza	69	Waiter	Fell while rolling long table into elevator	Rohnert Park
185	10/25/17	Luis Ruiz	45	Laborer	Struck by lumber	--
186	10/30/17	Benjamin Sanchez	51	Driver	Vehicle collision with a tree	Mountain View
187	11/02/17	Ryan Romness	42	Walnut Harvesting Company Owner and Operator	Passed away after an accident with a walnut harvester trailer auger	Rio Oso
188	11/03/17	Richard Iloilo	25	Security guard	Shot dead while requesting patron's identification	Bakersfield

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189	11/07/17	Rajan Bamola	56	Engineer	Plasma spraying chemical indoors without proper personal protective equipment	Riverside
190	11/10/17	Thomas Patrick Carpenter	61	Security guard	Struck by vehicle	Bloomington
191	11/12/17	Karl Whitehead	70	Security guard	Fatally assaulted while trying to break up an argument	Modesto
192	11/13/17	Dharampreet Singh Jassar	20	Store Clerk	Shot during robbery	Madera
193	11/14/17	Eloy Rios Vazquez	36	Laborer	Killed when truck ran over him	Camarillo
194	11/17/17	Elmer Valenzuela	49	Construction Worker	Fell 9' from roof to ground	--
195	11/17/17	Cesar Trujillo Gonzalez	38	Truck driver	Killed when truck overturned after colliding with bus	San Francisco
196	11/24/17	Elder Flores Martel	--	Truck Driver	Killed when truck crashed into concrete barrier due to flat tire	Berkeley
197	12/01/17	Juan Avila	50	Machine Operator	Fatally caught in machinery belt	Irvine
198	12/02/17	Rafael Caballero	27	Mechanic	Crushed by truck during repairs when it slipped off of jack	Montebello
199	12/02/17	Si Si Han	46	Bay Bridge toll collector	Struck by a car driven by driver suspected of DUI	Oakland
200	12/08/17	Andrew McGinty	56	Laborer	Fell 18' to ground while hanging Christmas lights	San Clemente
201	12/09/17	John Ochoa	36	Roofer	Fell from roof to ground	--
202	12/11/17	Paul J. Anderson	50	Commercial Truck Driver	Struck by own gravel truck while trying to load a box when truck rolled forward	Burson
203	12/12/17	Alan Feigenbaum	64	Food services and facilities manager	Found on ground, possible fall from ladder	Valyermo
204	12/14/17	Cory Iverson	32	Firefighter	Trapped in flames while battling a wildfire	Fillmore
205	12/14/17	Name Unknown	--	Warehouse worker	Became ill, was hospitalized, and died next day	Sacramento
206	12/15/17	Ezekiel Jackson Sumner Jr.	60	Driver	Pinned under truck while cleaning debris from a wildfire	Petaluma
207	12/18/17	Greg Norwood	52	Security Guard	Struck by client who was exiting the parking lot and, by accident, accelerated forward instead of in reverse	Templeton
208	12/21/17	Jose Alvarez	60	Construction Worker	Fell at construction site when header broke	Burbank
209	12/22/17	Sergio Hernandez	54	Trend Offset Printing Employee	Fatal head trauma to worker when the machine he was repairing was inadvertently activated	Santa Ana (or Los Alamitos)
210	12/25/17	Andrew Camilleri Sr.	33	California Highway Patrol Officer	Struck by a speeding vehicle and died of injuries	Hayward
211	12/29/17	Bradley Buss	64	Auto Body Worker	Collapsed after exiting a paint spray booth	San Luis Obispo
212	12/29/17	Darryl Conklin	59	Business owner	Fell approx 40' through a skylight while setting up a drone	Stockton
213	12/29/17	Ricardo Ruiz	43	Mechanic	Struck by falling part while performing maintenance on a conveyor sprocket	--
214	12/29/17	Major A. Langer	75	Law Partner	Shot by a recently fired attorney	Long Beach
215	12/30/17	Jose Rivas	57	Laborer	Stuck in vehicle that was struck by truck and then caught fire	Cupertino



# **WORKSAFE**

safety, health, and justice for workers  
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