

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF SOCALCOSH



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COALITION FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH (SoCALCOSH), *A Project of Community Partners*
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SoCalCOSH News

By Suzan Luu, SoCalCOSH Coordinator

The hard work of the Founding Board of SoCalCOSH enabled the organization to achieve its 501(c)(3) non-profit status! SoCalCOSH is now focusing on organizational development in order to build the infrastructure needed to accomplish our goals. We've established our new Executive Committee and are recruiting Advisory Board members (learn more about the SoCalCOSH Leadership on *page 9*).

SoCalCOSH is part of a network of 22 similar COSH groups around the nation organized by National COSH (NCOSH); for more information visit www.coshnetwork.org.

SoCalCOSH is a coalition of activists from unions, worker centers, students and community organizations working to eliminate workplace hazards. To accomplish this goal, we organize trainings and workshops on health and safety issues, track and support legislation affecting worker health, and disseminate information about critical issues and organize around them. We feel that this coalition is imperative in the current landscape, where workplace health and safety issues don't become

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SoCalCOSH News	1
BINGO! An Employer Incentive Program	1
Heat Illness Prevention: The Battle Heats Up!	2
Charlene Culbert's Story of Activism	2
A Look at the Petroleum Industry	4
ICE Raid - Making Cal/OSHA Take Notice	5
Advocacy Day in Sacramento	6
Fall Health & Safety Course at LATTC	6
November 18th Quarterly Meeting - Join us!	7
Donate to SoCalCOSH & Web Resources	8
Meet the SoCalCOSH Leadership of 2005	9

highlighted until workers get injured; SoCalCOSH focuses on prevention and the elimination of hazards.

Thank you for your support of SoCalCOSH and we look forward to continuing to work together in the future! We aim to continue building relationships to expand the coalition and further develop the community of health and safety activists. ■



BINGO! Hazardous to Your Health?

How Employer Incentive Programs Discourage Injury Reporting

By Daniela Conde & Laura Podolsky,
2005 Occupational Health Internship Program (OHIP) Interns

We are UCLA students who participated in the 2nd annual Occupational Health Internship Program (OHIP) to research the high rates of injuries and the injury reporting process among hotel housekeepers through methods of Participatory Action Research. We interned with the Union of Needletrades, Textiles and Industrial Employees- Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union (UNITE-HERE) Local 11, where we were placed with four hotels in the greater Los Angeles area. The program's focus is to learn about occupational health and safety *from* workers; therefore, we attended union meetings, housekeeper workshops, and visited hotels to learn

more about their work. On one hotel visit, a worker described how she had injured her finger. When we asked if she reported her injury she said, "No, because then nobody would have been able to win Bingo."

It was here that we learned about Bingo, a reward or incentive program that discourages workers from reporting injuries and creates an environment where workplace health and safety is perceived to be the main responsibility of the worker rather than the employer.

Incentive programs are common in both union and

➔ Please see *Bingo - Hazardous?* on page 3



Summer may be over, but SoCalCOSH focuses on Heat!



Heat Illness Prevention: The Battle Heats Up!

By Marianne Brown, former Director of the UCLA Labor Occupational Safety & Health (LOSH) Program

Deaths Lead to a Temporary Standard

It took the heat-related deaths of 4 workers in the Central Valley this summer to get Cal-OSHA to FINALLY issue an emergency temporary standard to prevent heat illness for California workers who toil outdoors. Released on August 31, the 3 page-long regulation is in effect for only 120 days from date of issuance. If a final regulation is not issued by December 31, Cal-OSHA can get another 120 day extension. But if they miss both these deadlines the emergency regulation issued August 31 will expire, and workers will no longer have this protection. Now efforts are underway to get a permanent -- and more protective -- standard in place by using both administrative and legislative avenues.

Regulatory Route

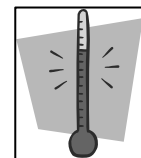
With respect to the regulatory route, on August 12, the statewide worker advocacy group WORKSAFE!

submitted a draft standard to the California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board. Then, on September 20, they submitted a more comprehensive one, Draft #7. This draft can be found on WORKSAFE's website [www.worksafe.org]. This draft covers both indoor and outdoor workers. Seven pages long, it emphasizes steps the employer must take to prevent worker heat illness, including worker training on how to recognize symptoms of heat illness. In August, WORKSAFE! sent letters to the Standards Board and its Executive Officer Keith Umemoto calling for issuance of a final regulation as soon as possible. Furthermore, they stated that since a Heat Stress Regulation Advisory Committee, which met from 1999-2002, deadlocked over this issue, no more meetings would be productive. So far, Cal/OSHA has not acted on this proposed standard.

 Please see *Heat Illness Prevention* on page 7

Too Hot or Too Cold: Charlene Culbert's Beats the Heat at the Pomona Fairplex Race Track

Interviewed By Suzan Luu, SoCalCOSH Coordinator



110 Degrees!

"Don't get intimidated [to find a solution] when a situation has an answer, a simple one that won't cost a fortune," says Charlene Culbert, an employee of the Pomona Fairplex for over 24 years.

Back in 1994 when Charlene worked in Admissions, she and her co-worker had heat and air problems in their sales booth. "Have you ever seen portable booths at sporting events? They are tiny," she adds. This is the story of how Charlene Culbert, SEIU 1877 steward, solved the heat problem at her workplace.

Charlene worked in one of the two ticket booths, located just outside the lobby doors of the race track. During the summer, the temperature inside the booths would measure 110 degrees; during the winter, it would be extremely cold, measuring around 50 or 60 degrees. Charlene worked under these conditions for several years, getting ill often. She mentioned the need for a heating and cooling system to her supervisors on a periodic basis, and was told, "There is no money in the budget." A band aid solution provided by

management was a small space heater and a fan. "You know those don't work. You practically have to lie on top of those heaters to feel anything, and the fan was blowing nothing but hot air around," comments Charlene.

One year, the conditions in the booths got so bad that Charlene finally decided to take it upon herself to do something about the problem. She wrote a letter to her direct manager requesting a heating and air conditioning system for the two Admission booths; she stated that this was not an unreasonable request and that it was doable. The letter mentioned that her desire was to solve the problem internally without calling upon a third party for assistance, and gave them two weeks to respond. Charlene had a thermometer to measure the temperature; she said they did not have to take her word for it and invited management to come see what the conditions were like for themselves.

 Please see *Charlene Culbert* on page 3

Charlene Culbert from page 2

On the day that the Facility Coordinator came to her booth, the temperature measured 110 degrees. He said that they didn't have money in the budget and said he would work on it.

Management did not respond to the letter, so she followed up immediately with a second letter. In this letter, Charlene apologized that she and management could not work the issue out, and said she was left with no choice but to seek outside help. She again stated that this problem could have been fixed in cooperation, but had no problem seeking assistance from an outside agency. In passing conversation, Charlene had mentioned how she did not think that OSHA would stand for this type of working condition. The letter further affirmed that she was serious by threatening to take it further.

Very shortly after sending this letter, the direct manager came to ask where she wanted her air conditioner installed. In about one month, she had a cooling and heating system installed into the wall of the Admission booth. Her actions also benefited her co-worker.

Charlene concluded, "You should not have to threaten or intimidate to work issues out. Feel free to speak up. I know that speaking up is often frowned upon, but it is all about your approach. I first approached my supervisor with a non-threatening attitude and with sincerity; I showed that I meant business, while demonstrating that I was flexible, helped my

supervisors to be more receptive."

Charlene did not want to bring in the union, file a grievance or call a third party to resolve her heating and cooling issue, but was willing to do so if necessary.

After Charlene completed a recent 24-hour UCLA-LOSH Workplace Occupational Safety and Health Training and Education Program (WOSHTEP) Course (see below), she showed the certificate to her supervisor. Charlene's history of activism and her credentials were enough to remind the supervisor that there were known violations of safety that existed that needed to be taken care of, such as the exposed extension cords in Charlene's work area. Soon after, extension cords were replaced with sockets that do not need cords, new florescent lighting was installed and a carpenter will be redoing Charlene's workstation. ■

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**UCLA Labor Occupational Health & Safety
Program (UCLA-LOSH):**

(310) 794-5964

or visit www.osh.ucla.edu/woshtep

Bingo - Hazardous? from page 1

non-union hotels. Some are modeled after games like Bingo. Workers we spoke with periodically receive a bingo chart attached to their paycheck. Then, everyday over the next month or so, a letter-number combination is announced (e.g., "B-6"). The prize money grows daily ranging from \$200 - \$500. At some hotels, instead of money, coupons or gift certificates are offered. However, if a worker reports a work-related injury, her or his department is no longer eligible to participate in the game. At some hotels, instead of being divided up by department, workers are put into "teams" with workers from other departments; if any member of the team reports an injury, the whole team is disqualified.

Some hotels have supplemental incentive programs, such as raffles, specifically for the housekeeping department. This incentive program creates group level pressure that discourages workers from reporting injuries because they don't want their department disqualified from Bingo. Workers who do not report

injuries often do not get the medical treatment they need and their injuries may worsen over time. We found that Bingo seems to be more of a barrier to reporting for some workers than others; workers with less seniority tend to be influenced by Bingo more than workers with more seniority. But everyone enjoys winning extra money.

It was disappointing to learn about this employer tactic that is legal under labor laws and is very common among different industries. But, at the SoCalCOSH Meeting on July 22, it was inspiring to learn that more proactive incentive programs have been developed and are being implemented. These alternative programs recognize the importance of occupational health and safety and reward workers for identifying and reporting health and safety hazards. We need more programs that encourage a healthy and safe workplace instead of programs like Bingo that punish workers for becoming injured. ■

A Look at the Petroleum Industry Proposed Risk-Based Inspections Program: Lack of Worker Input in Standards-Setting Process may Compromise Safety

By David Simmons, United Steel Workers International Union - Local 675

The *West Coast Petroleum Association*, representing all Oil Refiners on the West Coast, has proposed a Risk-Based Inspection (RBI) Program to replace the current **Petroleum Safety Orders**. A hearing was held on August 18, 2005 by the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board; unions affected by these changes were only informed one week prior to the hearing. The *West Coast Petroleum Association* had neglected to tell the unions that represent the workers who will be affected most by this proposal. The United Steel Workers (USW) has a history in taking actions to improve the safety and health of their members. USW does not support the new Risk-Based Inspections Proposal in its current form because worker safety may be compromised. Although USW supports certain sections of the proposal, the union is greatly concerned about:

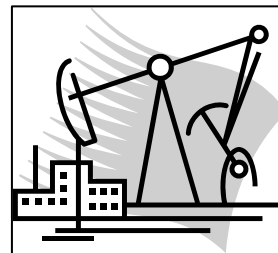
- 1) Equipment inspection
- 2) Enforcement & follow up to maintain equipment
- 3) Disregard for worker safety in efforts to lower operating costs

The petroleum industry has always had a form of *risk based inspection* program that is based on ensuring profitability; **inspection** is prioritized for equipment with the highest likelihood of failure because its reliability will affect its profitability. Under the industry's proposal of RBI, certain equipment will be classified via risk-ranking as *less important* to inspect and can go without inspection for 20 years, even as long as 40 years. USW finds the interval between inspections unacceptable. Most equipment covered under the RBI proposal has already been in service for decades and inspections are expected to be extended even longer. USW feels that inspection intervals for new equipment need to be shortened, and intervals need to be adjusted to inspect equipment more frequently as it gets older.

USW is also concerned with the **effectiveness of enforcement and follow-up requirements** found by inspections under the RBI proposal. The union doesn't feel confident that the findings by the Reliability and Inspection Departments are given due consideration - nor is action taken - when processed-up the management food chain. Economic factors often influence decisions about whether to shut down a process unit (unit where finished product is being made) for repairs or not. This situation is especially true during periods of high profit margins such as currently being experienced with the high oil prices;

maintenance shut-downs are put off to continue profitability. Postponing regular maintenance shut-downs can result in equipment breaking down unscheduled, which can cause fires, release gases or even explosions at refineries.

The union is also concerned about multiple references within the industry's proposal to **lower operating costs** for companies. When the industry makes references to lowering operating costs that includes repairs of equipment, they are devaluing the cost of workers and health and safety. Safety



regulations will result in an increase in operating cost for companies – this is the cost of doing business in a high risk, high hazard industry. The union recognizes that the oil industry is never going to be without risk or hazard; only through effective regulations and enforcement can these risks and hazards be controlled so workers do not have to fear for their safety when going to work. It is essential that unions representing workers employed at the covered facilities be contacted and offered the opportunity to participate throughout the entire standards-setting process. ■

UPDATE! Industry's Proposal Tabled by OSHA

The USW organized members to attend the OSHA Standards Board meeting described above, to communicate their objections to the industry's proposal that would affect the health and safety of its union members. On August 18, 2005, Steve P. Sullivan of USW wrote a letter to members of the OSHA Standards Board, addressing their concerns as covered in this article.

Since the writing of this article, OSHA has decided to table this proposal that would change the current Petroleum Safety Orders. Great work United Steel Workers Union and members! ■

ICE Raid: SoCalCOSH Raises Issue to Cal/OSHA Advisory Board

Adapted from the **Cal-OSHA Reporter**, September 16, 2005; Vol. 32/No. 35

Article: *Cal/OSHA Advisory Committee Report – “Immigrant Workers Plead with Cal/OSHA: Don’t Get Fooled Here”*

SoCalCOSH (article incorrectly calls group, “SCCOSH”) in collaboration with the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, Sweatshop Watch, and Institute of Popular Education of Southern California (IDEPSCA), attended the Cal/OSHA Advisory Board meeting on September 8, 2005 to bring up the issue of the immigration raid in North Carolina. Immigration officers from the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), part of the department of Homeland Security, posed as OSHA officials and staged a mandatory safety meeting for workers at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, N.C. When workers arrived, the ICE immediately arrested 48 workers from Mexico, Central America and Ukraine on immigration violations.

“To cause workers to be more afraid of reporting violations is to give a green light to predatory employers to continue to threaten workers health & lives.”

Immigrant workers (day laborers & a household worker) made emotional pleas to Cal/OSHA at the meeting and presented their concerns over the tactic of using OSHA’s name. “ICE may potentially unravel years of efforts...to persuade immigrant workers to report health and safety violations in their workplaces,” SoCalCOSH said in a letter to the Division of Occupational Safety & Health, Acting Chief Len Welsh.

The letter presented to the Cal/OSHA Advisory Board included five demands:

- Affirm and publicize to workers and general public the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) statement, “All California workers are entitled to workplace protection” regardless of legal status
- Provide assurance that a similar activity will not take place in California
- Raise the North Carolina incident at the next meeting of the Occupational Safety & Health State Plan Association (OSHSPA)



Cal/OSHA Public Comment Period (standing from left): Edgar Contreras, Hilda Aracely Castañeda, Adolfo Cisneros, Roxana Cardozo, Betty Hung, Rebecca Ronquillo & Ignacio Garcia (speaking). *Picture by Marlom Portillo.*

- Publicly take a position against the ICE tactic
- Issue a written request to ICE to refrain from posing as Cal/OSHA officials

Len Welsh said he too was disturbed by the incident and reports of a second sting using OSHA’s name (second incident so far is unconfirmed). “No one in this room supports the ICE action,” he says. “We obviously want workers to trust us.” He also said the workers showed “a lot of guts” by appearing before the committee and sharing their personal stories.

Mike Alvarez, regional manager for Cal/OSHA Consultation Service, who oversees the onsite inspection program, said the issue is of “extreme concern” to Consultation because the sting hampers the service’s mission and outreach efforts.

SoCalCOSH stated, “To cause workers to be more afraid of reporting violations is to give a green light to predatory employers to continue to threaten workers’ health and lives.”

SoCalCOSH’s main purpose for attending the Cal/OSHA Advisory Board meeting was to bring light to this issue, which affects OSHA’s efforts with immigrants and occupational health & safety advocacy as a whole. Federal OSHA has not responded publicly to the ICE tactic; SoCalCOSH felt that bringing it to the attention of Cal/OSHA, a state plan, was of utmost urgency.

For more information on the ICE Raid on July 6, 2005 or to get a copy of the *Cal-OSHA Reporter* article, please contact socalcosh@iir.ucla.edu. This article is not available electronically. ▪

OHIP Intern Partners with IDEPSCA to Advocate in Sacramento, Represents SoCalCOSH

By Mona Lee, 2005 Occupational Health Internship Program (OHIP) Intern

On August 15, 2005, we lobbied for multiple bills supporting workplace health and safety in Sacramento. Advocacy Day was organized by Sally Lieber's office and WORKSAFE!, and sponsored the *Instituto de Educacion Popular Del Sur De California* (IDEPSCA) team to travel from Southern California to Sacramento to advocate for three bills that are currently stalled in the Senate: **AB 805 (Chu), "The Heat Illness Prevention Act"**, **AB 815 (Lieber), "Equal Protection for Workers Exposed to Toxics"**, and **AB 816 (Lieber), "Chemical Tracking to Protect California Workers."**



Advocacy Day (from left): Ramon Solano, Ignacio Garcia, Edgar Reyes, Rebecca Ronquillo, Mona Lee, Adolfo Cisneros & Celeste Toma. *Photo by Marlom Portillo.*

The chemical bills address toxic exposures that are unregulated and unreported at the workplace and offer cost-effective prevention programs and policies for populations vulnerable to risks and serious injuries. In

our meetings with the legislative staff, we highlighted the need to protect all workers, such as farm workers and low-income immigrant workers in day labor, domestic work and the manufacturing industry.

Three day laborers and one domestic worker provided first hand testimonies of the risks and hazards they face at their workplaces. I was honored to represent SoCalCOSH and IDEPSCA, and to be present among other devoted volunteers and activists. It was then that I realized the depth of my summer internship experience.

As I spoke in front of legislative assistants, I discussed the harm of unregulated chemical hazards in the workplace and the need to implement equal protection of all workers, including day laborers. Thanks to my summer experience as an Occupational Health Internship Program (OHIP) intern, I was able to explain the chemical risks and hazards day laborers and domestic workers face at the workplace to paint a picture of day laborer's experiences. That day marked a memorable experience and thoughtful ending of my internship.

Regardless of the outcome of these specific bills, the need for stronger worker protection will only continue. In face of heinous disregard for occupational health and safety, it is up to our supportive networks in SoCalCOSH and affiliates to increase awareness and talk to elected officials about conditions faced by low-wage workers. ■

Happening Now!

UCLA-LOSH teaches a Health & Safety Course at Los Angeles Trade-Technical College (LATTC)

This Fall, the UCLA Labor Occupational Safety & Health Program (LOSH) is teaching a course for workers, organizers & activists at Los Angeles Trade-Technical College. The curriculum includes hazard identification, creating health & safety contract language and strategy for taking action. Participants earn 3 college credits!

The course is cosponsored by SoCalCOSH, and SoCalCOSH activists help to co-facilitate various sessions.



The course is held every Wednesday evening, from September 7 - December 21, 2005, at 6:00 - 9:10 PM.

It takes place at the **United Association Local 250**: 18355 S. Figueroa St., Gardena, CA 90248 (where the 110 & 405 meet).

For more information, please contact: Maribel Carbajal, LATTC at (213) 763-7129 or visit <www.lattc.cc.ca.us> or UCLA-LOSH at (310) 794-5934 ■

Heat Illness Prevention from page 2

Legislative Route

In the state legislature in the early months of this year, Assemblymember Judy Chu from Southern California introduced the Heat Illness Prevention Act, AB 805, sponsored by the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation and the United Farm Workers. This Bill would require the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board to adopt a standard to prevent heat illness by December 1, 2007. It would require every employer to develop a system so that employees at risk of heat illness do not work alone. Also, it would require heat illness prevention training, access to a shaded rest area, which "if feasible, shall be cooled," and scheduled, adequate hourly rest breaks during heat waves and in other situations when the hazard of heat illness is high. This Bill passed the Assembly earlier this year, but has now been carried over into the next legislative year, becoming a 2 year bill. Not as strong as the WORKSAFE! draft standard with respect to prevention, the Bill, if passed, also has a late date for implementation.

Long Time Coming

Some ask, *Why should it take worker deaths to get action on this issue?* After all, workers in California have been battling the heat since Indians toiled in mission gardens two and a half centuries ago. And as long ago as 1984, a petition was filed with the Standards Board calling on the Board to issue a heat illness prevention regulation that would protect workers

who work both in- and out-of-doors. In 1984, Selma Benjamin, a librarian in the old public library in downtown LA and an AFSCME member, went to the Los Angeles Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (LACOSH – the predecessor to SoCalCOSH) with concerns that she and her co-workers were suffering heat-related illnesses. There was no air conditioning system in the old library; sometimes people had to work in temperatures in the 90's and 100's. Through LACOSH, Selma was successful in getting 27 unions and worker advocacy groups to petition the Standards Board for such a standard. Governor Deukmejian's and Wilson's Cal/OSHA ignored the petition. When Davis became governor a Heat Stress Regulatory Advisory Committee was finally formed – consisting of representatives from labor, management and the health professions. After three years of meeting, the Committee could not reach consensus on the need for such a regulation because of management's strong resistance. Now with this year's heat-related deaths, and a Governor who seems to have some understanding of the issue since he himself was once laid low with heat illness during a film shoot in Mexico, we finally have a temporary standard. But, it still excludes indoor work environments! Join us in a struggle to get a permanent standard that protects **ALL** workers!

How to Get Involved

For how you can help in the effort to get a heat illness prevention standard, contact: SoCalCOSH at socalcosh@iir.ucla.edu or (310) 825-0298. ■

SoCalCOSH Fall Quarterly Meeting – November 18, 2005

Emergency Preparedness: Is Your Workplace Prepared For An Emergency?



Friday, November 18, 2005
12 – 2 pm

Location:

UCLA Downtown Labor Center
675 S. Park View Street (at Wilshire)
Los Angeles, CA 90057

Lunch Provided – please RSVP @ socalcosh@iir.ucla.edu
\$5 Parking Available Next Door

When was the last time you participated in an emergency drill? Does your workplace have a plan in case of an emergency?

Plus: Learn more about the pending Cal/OSHA **Heat Stress Standard** & Updates on Current Occupational Health & Safety Issues!

Please join us to hear from speakers, participate in discussion and take resources back to your workplaces & get prepared:

- *General Readiness:* Hear from a registered Firefighter & develop a plan in case of an emergency
- *Individual Workplaces:* What do you need to prepare for an emergency at work? A checklist will be provided.
- *Federal OSHA & Cal/OSHA:* What's the relationship between the two groups? What does OSHA require in an emergency response plan?
- *Citywide Readiness:* Does the City of Los Angeles have an emergency response plan in place?

Also, learn about the pending Cal/OSHA "Heat Stress Standard:"

- *The Basics of the Standard* – a fact sheet will be available
- *Support Implementation of the Standard* – send a letter of support!
- *Group Brainstorm!* What workers will the Standard affect? What workers are being left out?

Plus, discuss & get updates on current health and safety issues! Contact SoCalCOSH for more info.

Monthly Newsletter Elements

Donate to SoCalCOSH!

Become a Charter Member!

SoCalCOSH has recently gained its **501(c)(3)** nonprofit organizational status. Please **donate** to SoCalCOSH and help to expand the trainings we offer, campaigns we engage in and health & safety information we can share! You will be a *charter member* of the organization!

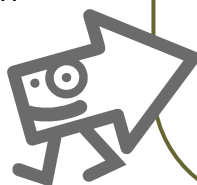
SoCalCOSH would like to recognize our newest Charter Member...

United Steel Workers, Local 675

Thank you for your support of a growing occupational health & safety coalition in Southern California!

Please make checks payable to:
"Community Partners FBO/SoCalCOSH"

Send to: 675 S. Park View St.
Los Angeles, CA 90057



Suggested Donations

Unions

- Less than 100 members: \$150
- 101 – 250 members: \$250
- 251 – 1000 members: 500
- 1001 – 5000 members: \$750
- 5000 and more members: \$1000

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Individuals

- Individual Membership: \$25
- Union Member (*from sponsoring unions*) \$20
- Low-Income: \$5
- Student: \$5
- Retirees: \$5



Happy Fall • Happy Halloween • Happy Thanksgiving • Happy Fall • Be Happy



Health & Safety. ORG

The newsletter will include several useful websites to gain health & safety resources and links to organizations.

National COSH: www.coshnetwork.org

WORKSAFE! for health & safety legislation: www.worksafe.org

Cal/OSHA: www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/dosh1.html

VotersInjuredAtWork.org: www.viaw.org

UCLA-LOSH: www.losh.ucla.edu

Los Angeles Repetitive Strain Injury Support Group: www.geocities.com/la_rsi



If you have sites you would like to recommend & share, please send them to socalcosh@iir.ucla.edu.

Meet the SoCalCOSH Leadership of 2005 – Executive Committee

Charles Burks, President

Charles belongs to the National Postal Mail Handlers Union Local 303. He has been involved with occupational health & safety since 1978. Charles is currently the health & safety representative for Local 303, and is responsible for organizing health & safety trainings for members. Charles became more involved with SoCalCOSH in 2001 during the Anthrax scare which made postal workers vulnerable. He was a Founding Board member of SoCalCOSH.

Carmen Hayes-Walker, Secretary

Carmen is a member of AFSCME Local 3090, a union that has always been concerned about the health & safety of its members. Carmen has been a member of numerous bargaining teams for her union to negotiate for health & safety rights, including pregnancy accommodations for members who worked on Video Display Terminals (VDT), expanding Safety Standards for city clerical workers, and successfully negotiating a joint union/city ergonomic training for 3500 computer workers citywide. Carmen got involved with SoCalCOSH this year – welcome Carmen!

Linda Delp, Treasurer

Linda is the Director of the UCLA Labor Occupational Safety & Health Program (LOSH). She became interested in worker health & safety after doing an internship with LA COSH in the 1980s. Linda has a M.A. in Public health and she is now a PhD candidate in the UCLA School of Public Health and will receive her degree by December of 2005.

Alejandra Domenzain, Member-at-Large

Alejandra is the Associate Director of Sweatshop Watch. She has been involved with health & safety for five years. Through Sweatshop Watch, she carries out corporate and government accountability advocacy around issues faced by low wage immigrant workers, including health & safety issues. Alejandra was a Founding Board Member of SoCalCOSH and previously chaired the Education Committee.

Rudy Garcia, Member-at-Large/Chair of Outreach & Advocacy

Rudy is a Union Representative with SEIU Local 660. Rudy was involved in planning and outreach for the 2005 Workers Memorial Day event.

Gene Hurd, Member-at-Large

Gene is the Vice President of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 509 in Pico Rivera. He has been involved with joint management / union safety committees since the 80's. He has chaired his local's safety committee for the past 10 years. After attending UCLA-LOSH training, he learned about SoCalCOSH got involved. Currently, Gene is a part of the UCLA-LOSH trainer's network and is helping to co-facilitate

sessions at the health & safety class at Los Angeles Trade Tech College.

Marlom Portillo, Member-at-Large/Chair of Education Committee

Marlom is the Education Program Manager at Institute of Popular Education of Southern California (IDEPSCA), working with the organization for over 10 years. He has a B.A. in Education and has been involved in numerous curriculum development projects, conducting day laborer trainings, outreach and education. Marlom has initiated a pilot day labor health project; activities include a Worker Health Fair for the immigrant community in Los Angeles.

David P. Simmons, Member-at-Large/Chair of Policy Committee

David is a member of the United Steel Workers (USW) Union Local 675, and has been the Health and Safety Representative for the local since 2003. He began to attend meetings and seminars organized by SoCalCOSH, and since USW is a strong proponent of safety in the work place, he feels that his participation in SoCalCOSH will help the union remain knowledgeable about the trends in other occupations.

Alfred Varela, Member-at-Large

Alfred is Senior Loss Consultant with State Compensation Insurance Fund (SCIF). Alfred is a bilingual trainer working with employers and employees to conduct health & safety trainings for over 12 years. He became involved with SoCalCOSH this year – welcome Alfred!

Adam Dombchik, Education Committee Member

Adam is an attorney with *Gordon, Edelstein, Krepack, Grant, Felton & Goldstein*, Workers' Compensation and Personal Injury Law, with representation limited to representation of the injured. Adam learned about SoCalCOSH through his participation as a speaker for a program sponsored by SoCalCOSH.

Sheryl Moore, Educ/Policy Committee Member

Sheryl is a member / steward of AFSCME Local 3090. She is currently working with UCLA-LOSH and the City of Los Angeles to conduct basic ergonomics training for 3500 city union workers. Sheryl became involved with SoCalCOSH after the 2005 Workers Memorial Day event.

SoCalCOSH is currently recruiting **Advisory Board members**. If you would like to be a part of the SoCalCOSH board or nominate an individual, please contact socalcosh@iir.ucla.edu.

The current SoCalCOSH Advisory Board Member's bios will be featured in the next issue.

Southern California Coalition for Occupational Safety & Health (SoCalCOSH)

675 S. Park View St.
Los Angeles, CA 90057

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*A Coalition of Activists
Dedicated to Eliminating
Workplace Hazards*

Join us at the Fall SoCalCOSH Quarterly Meeting!

“Emergency Preparedness – Is Your Workplace Prepared for an Emergency?”

Plus: Learn more about the pending **Cal/OSHA Heat Stress Standard** and get updates on current Occupational Health & Safety Issues!

Please join us!

Friday, November 18, 2005
12 pm – 2 pm

UCLA Downtown Labor Center
675 S. Park View St. (at Wilshire)
Los Angeles, CA 90057

Lunch Provided! Please RSVP at:
(310) 825-0298 | socalcosh@iir.ucla.edu
\$5 parking available next door.

[More information on Page 7]

Southern California Coalition for Occupational Safety & Health (SoCalCOSH)

675 S. Park View St.
Los Angeles, CA 90057



Customer Name
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code

