



Safety Bulletin
November 2024

Don't be caught off guard with a surprise OSHA Inspection

Recently, several members have received notice of Cal OSHA inspection. It is important to remember that OSHA is required to investigate workplace injuries and illnesses. In this Safety Bulletin we discuss the preparation for an inspection. OSHA's primary mission is to ensure employers are following the health and safety standards that are designed to protect employees.

What to Do Before Cal OSHA Visits

Agencies should always assume OSHA could show up any day. Being prepared is imperative. Ensure that the agency has an effective safety program in place, known as an Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP). Cal OSHA requires California employers to have an IIPP, as it is the foundation for workplace safety. It will be one of the first documents OSHA will typically ask for during an inspection. Failure to have an effective IIPP could result in a citation.

Why Would Cal OSHA Show Up?

An OSHA inspection can occur without the prior knowledge of the employer. Instances where a site has had a fatality, accident or receives a complaint from an employee will warrant a visit.

Tips During an Inspection

- Greet the inspector and treat them like you would do for any other guest
- Ask them for their credentials to verify that they are from Cal OSHA
- Call the Compliance Officer's office and verify how long they have been with the division and if they are Safety or Health (Engineer or Industrial Hygienist)
- Answer questions truthfully and do not try to hide anything
- Do not be overly talkative about business operations without being asked specific questions. Everything you say can be used against you.
- Only provide documents that are being requested
- During the walkthrough take most direct, least-hazardous path to requested area
- Take notes of the inspections and questions being asked
- Take photos of everything the inspector photographs

Following are the top 10 most frequently cited standards following inspections of a worksites:

- Fall Protection
- Hazard Communication / Chemical safety
- Ladders (safety first when hanging holiday decorations!)
- Scaffolding
- Powered Industrial Trucks / Forklifts
- Control of Hazardous Energy (lockout/tagout)
- Respiratory Protection
- Fall Protection Training
- Eye and Face Protection

- Machinery and Machine Guarding

Please visit the [Cal OSHA](#) website for more information.

If you have any questions concerning OSHA Inspections, contact the Director of Loss Control – Bob May at biem47@outlook.com or 760.221.8205.