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Dangerous Work Conditions - What Can An Employee Do?

Workers who are asked to work in an unsafe working condition have the right to report dangerous conditions to the employer and to federal and state Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Depending on the circumstances, the worker may refuse to do the work.

What Are the Federal and State Occupational Safety Laws?

The Occupational Safety and Health Act is a federal law that requires employers to maintain a workplace free of dangerous health and safety conditions that may cause injury, illness or death. OSHA enforces the Act, which applies to most private employers in the U.S., and enforces protective workplace safety and health standards.



In California, the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), also known as Cal/OSHA, protects and improves the health and safety of working men and women in California. Cal/OSHA sets and enforces standards; provides outreach education and assistance; issues applicable permits, licenses, certifications, registrations and approvals.

OSHA protects workers from one-time injuries, illnesses caused by unsafe workplace health conditions, and recognized hazards that may cause serious injury or death. Employers must abide by workplace safety standards including:

- Providing a workplace free of health and safety hazards that can cause death or serious injury.
- Post the required OSHA job safety notice in the workplace.
- Keep a record of all injuries, deaths and exposure to hazardous materials.
- Provide safety training if necessary.

Observing a Dangerous Condition: What A Worker Should Do

If the condition does not pose a risk of immediate danger, the employee should inform the employer in writing of the problem. The worker can file a complaint with OSHA or Cal/OSHA if the employer does not correct the problem.

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....continued from page 1 **Dangerous Work Conditions - What Can....**

If the life of a worker is in imminent danger because of unsafe working conditions, the worker should report the dangerous condition directly to OSHA. The worker has the right to refuse to work if there is reasonable belief that the condition poses immediate and substantial risk of serious physical injury or death, if the immediacy of the danger doesn't allow time to report to federal or state OSHA, or if the employer will not correct the dangerous condition.

Federal and state regulations prohibit an employer from retaliating against a worker who reports a violation. For example, the employer may not demote, reduce pay or fire a worker because the worker filed a complaint about unsafe working conditions. If retaliation is found against the employer, the worker may be reinstated to the former position and compensated for lost wages.

You can learn more in the Cal/OSHA brochure Health & Safety Rights: Facts for California Workers.
<http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/documents/health-and-safety-rights-for-workers.pdf>

From My Blog:

What Are the Top Workers' Compensation Claims and Causes?

The most common worker injuries are sprains and strains, and worker injury is most often the result of materials handling incidents.

These are the findings of The Travelers Companies in its Injury Impact Report. This report, issued by the largest workers' compensation carrier in the U.S., assessed data on 1.5 million worker's compensation claims filed between 2010 and 2014 from all types and sizes of businesses and industries.



<http://www.kentonslawoffice.com/blog/workplace-injury/what-are-the-top-workers-compensation-claims-and-causes/> to read more.

Some Creepy October Fun: Southern California Haunted Houses

Halloween is the time for all things scary. We hope you enjoy this list of reportedly haunted houses where residents, visitors, passers-by or even "ghost experts" have reported paranormal and psychic phenomena.

Should you care to visit these creepy sites, remember ... it was your idea, not ours!

John Sowden House, Los Angeles. A woman, nicknamed the "Black Dahlia" by the press, was found gruesomely murdered on a vacant lot in 1947. Her murder presumably took place at this L.A. location, and ever since residents report strange noises including dragging chains, footsteps and eerie voices.



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....continued from page 2 **Some Creepy October Fun: Southern....**

Heaven's Gate Suicide House, Rancho Santa Fe. In 1997, cult leader Marshall Applewhite and 39 of his followers committed mass suicide, believing that the passing Comet Hale-Bopp was a vessel from outer space that was coming to get them. Visitors report a chilling sense of uneasiness and the area is strewn with creepy dolls.

Bessie Love's Cabin, Los Angeles. Silent screen actress Bessie Love regretted purchasing this house only to feel uneasy, get the chills and hear men's voices. These, along with an apparition of a man in a cowboy hat, may be from an incident where two robbers were caught at the site and killed in mid-eighteenth century.

Dudley House, Ventura. Visitors to this Victorian manor home, reportedly haunted since 1892, describe a blue light flashing from the kitchen. A clock, which hasn't worked in decades, goes off at intervals.

Joan Crawford House, Los Angeles. Christina Crawford, while living here with her adoptive mother, as well as subsequent residents experienced paranormal activity including seeing frightening figures, hearing voices, fires unexpectedly breaking out and a depressing, haunting feeling.

If you or a loved one has been denied Worker's Compensation or Social Security Disability (SSDI) benefits, it's important to get an attorney experienced in these types of cases involved immediately. Call **800.438.7734** for your initial free consultation, either in our office or in the comfort of your own home. The Kenton Koszdin Law Office, Social Security attorney in Van Nuys, can help you navigate the application process for the best possible outcome for you and your family.

Recipe of the Month **Healthy Chicken Salad**

If you love chicken salad but don't like all the calories from mayo, here's a delicious alternative using Greek Yogurt and Sour Cream.

Ingredients

- 2 cups chicken breast, shredded or chopped
- ½ cup Nonfat Greek Yogurt
- ¼ cup Nonfat Sour Cream
- 1 tablespoon Mayonnaise
- ½ Gala Apple, chopped into small pieces
- 2 tablespoons Bell Pepper, diced fine
- 1 tablespoon Dill Pickle Relish
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- ½ teaspoon paprika
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper

Instructions

1. In a large bowl, mix together all ingredients until well blended.
2. Adjust salt and pepper as needed.
3. Serve with bread, crackers or vegetables.



Recipe courtesy of youbrewmytea.com

Dangerous Work Conditions - What Can An Employee Do?



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What's Happening in & Around VanNuys & Southern California

Nov 4

End of Summer-Sesh Hip-Hop Festival
The Belasco
Los Angeles, CA
<https://goo.gl/5mXati>

Nov 5

Autumn Festival of Long Beach
Aquarium of the Pacific
Long Beach, CA
<https://goo.gl/ysnrzr>

Nov 5

Alzheimer's Association Walk to End
Alzheimer's Los Angeles
LA Live
Los Angeles, CA
<https://goo.gl/nkJJzB>

Nov 5

Malibu Half Marathon & 5K
Zuma Beach
Malibu, CA
<https://goo.gl/YnanPt>

Nov 7

Bruno Mars
LA Forum
Inglewood, CA
<https://goo.gl/3EPRq8>

Nov 8 & 10

Katy Perry
Staples Center
Los Angeles, CA
<https://goo.gl/B8grkz>

Nov 11

Brave 5K
San Pedro, CA
<https://goo.gl/bKr2y8>

Nov 11 - 12

Veterans Day Fall Fly Kite Festival
The Fox Theater Pomona
Pomona, CA
<https://goo.gl/aAz8sF>

Nov 29 - 30

Mission Inn Festival of Lights
Juan Bautista de Anza Park
Calabasas, CA
<https://goo.gl/yB5c62>

Nov 30

Kenny Loggins
The Rose
Pasadena, CA
<https://goo.gl/K5JUJj>

