

FLASH REPORT!

Cal/OSHA Construction Crackdown Happening Now

Brokers might be interested in warning construction industry clients that Cal/OSHA is deploying teams of investigators to construction sites throughout the state “to determine whether adequate measures have been taken to identify safety hazards and prevent injury,” it says. There will be focus on specific issues and employers should expect aggressive enforcement.

Cal/OSHA is reacting to a series of recent fatal falls at construction sites around California. Cal/OSHA is fanning out to inspect worksites and puts employers on notice to pay attention to fall protection.

Investigators will be specifically checking safety railings, personal fall protection devices and equipment, and tie-offs. Cal/OSHA also will be looking for trench hazards, equipment safety and proximity to power lines. Cal/OSHA reminds employers that if it finds a lack of fall protection or other serious hazards, it can issue a stop-work order at the site, which will be in force until the hazard is abated. Employers deemed to be in violation safety standards also will be cited and ordered to correct the violations.

Three workers have died in the past two weeks and another survived with injuries. They include a May 18 fatality in Riverside when a worker tied off to a train bridge being dismantled rode down when the section toppled; a May 20 incident in San Mateo where a worker fell nine feet from a wall; and a May 21 death in San Jose where a worker unloading sheetrock from the third story of a building under construction fell over a railing from a sheetrock stack.

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