



April Newsletter

Worksafe Turns 42 on June 5th!

Registration is now open for [Worksafe's 42nd Anniversary Event: Investing in the Future of Work!](#) We're trying something new this year and featuring some community artist performances as part of the evening, which should be a treat.

We're returning to lovely Preservation Park, with food from Havana Catering, as I'm sure you'll be pleased to hear if you dined with us last year. As always, we'll have a cash bar, a moving ceremony to honor Health and Safety Heroes who fought for worker safety in 2023, and a raffle with great prizes.

Early Bird tickets are on sale for \$75--\$25 of which is tax deductible. We would also highly encourage anyone who is deterred by the price tag to take advantage of our sliding scale pricing and join us in the festivities!



Youth Listening Summit on Workers Memorial Day

On April 28th from noon to 4:30 p.m., Worksafe's Black Worker Initiative is hosting a Youth Listening Summit at the Greenlining Institute in Downtown Oakland to engage with young people ages 11-20. Youth Facilitators will lead discussions with youth on critical issues they face, from availability and quality of job opportunities and working conditions to environmental justice. Youth will be mentored to craft talking points and present their opinions and recommendations to a panel of ChangeMakers: California Labor Commissioner Lilia Garcia-Brower, Cal/OSHA Acting Chief Debra Lee, Assemblymember Mia Bonta, District 2 Council President Nikki Fortunato Bas, and District 3 Council Member Carroll Fife. This event is a first for Worksafe, and we are very excited to hear from Bay Area youth! We are taking registration up to the day of the event so feel free to refer youth to the event website.



SUNDAY APRIL 28

12:00 pm - 4:30 pm |
Afterparty til 6 pm

Greenlining
Institute
360 14th St

**CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS +
WORKSAFE + YOU!**



Nikki Fortunato Bas



Carroll Fife

- **Workshops**
- **Vendors**
- **Brunch**
- **Music**
- **Prizes**
- **Community**
- **Orgs**



Indoor Heat Standard Moving Ahead-- Without the Department of Corrections

Thursday, March 21st was a complicated and historic day for occupational safety in California. New Indoor Workplace Heat Illness Prevention rules were set for approval by the Standards Board, but the Department of Finance intervened in an extraordinary last minute maneuver to withdraw its approval, taking the item off the agenda. Many workers and advocates, who had showed up to support the standard, were driven to protest instead -- offering extensive and pointed testimony, playing drums and holding up signs and [even briefly halting the meeting](#).

The Board appeared to be equally frustrated by the move, moving ahead and voting unanimously to approve the standard. It remains unclear whether this

vote was effective or merely symbolic; advocates and watchdogs are examining the legality of the situation. Reportedly, the state Department of Corrections raised cost concerns late in the process, despite these having been addressed in the economic analysis earlier in 2023.

This matter is getting national coverage in the [LA Times](#), [CalMatters](#), [KQED](#), [NPR](#) and elsewhere. Statements were issued by SEIU and the Labor Fed:

“It’s outrageous that after years of advocacy, on the eve of the vote to finally pass this overdue heat standard, we learned that it was pulled from the agenda with no prior notice or explanation,” said Lorena Gonzalez, head of the California Labor Federation, in a Thursday news release. “It’s shameful that the state of California is turning a blind eye to preventable workplace injuries and deaths.”

At the May Standards Board meeting last year, [workers gave powerful testimony](#) regarding the unbearable conditions they face as the temperatures rise, and their employers refusal to offer them even the most basic concessions or protections until they are forced by law. But this standard isn’t a year old—it’s *ten* years in the making. And it’s already too late for workers like [Esteban Chavez Jr., who lost his life](#) at age 24 to UPS’s refusal to invest in air conditioning for its fleet of delivery vehicles.

How quickly we can get the standard back on track remains to be seen. At the April 18 Board meeting, agency officials explained that they are working to advance the administration’s plan to revive the administrative process and approve a general industry heat standard within a few months. A standard covering the Corrections industry will be proposed and move forward separately. There has yet to be any fully satisfactory explanation for the last-minute departure from the regular public process in this case, and the dangerous heat impacts on all California workers are hanging over the administration as a result of their intervention to delay these protections.

The proof will be seen in whether the standard gets rapidly back on track - or not. And advocates are concerned about the exemption of California’s Department of Corrections. As Worksafe [Policy Manager AnaStacia Wright told CalMatters](#): “It’s a huge concern that prison workplaces are being excluded from the heat standard, leaving not just guards but also nurses, janitors and many other prison workers across California unprotected from heat, not to mention all the incarcerated workers vulnerable to those dangerous conditions as well.”

Workers Memorial Day

On Workers Memorial Day each year, we mourn the dead and fight like hell for the living. Worksafe's Youth Listening Summit emphasizes the latter. Here are some additional Workers Memorial Day events in which to participate this year, honor those who lost their lives in the workplace, and join the fight for the living:

Dirty Dozen 2024 (National COSH)

Date: Thursday, **April 25, 2024**

Time: 11:00 AM PT

Location: Virtual

[Register Here](#)

Rights and Realities: Domestic Workers Fight for Health and Safety

Date: **April 25th, 2024**

Time: 5:00pm-8:00pm

Location: 2270 Venice Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90006

[Register Here](#)

O.C. Workers' Memorial Day Proclamation

Date: **April 16, 2024**

Time: 5:00 PM

Location: 3311 W 5th St.

Santa Ana, CA 92703

[YouTube Stream](#)

L.A. Workers' Memorial Day

Date: **April 26, 2024**

Time: 1:00pm-3:30pm

@ Unidad Park, 1644 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026

[LA WMD Flyer](#)

I.E. Workers' Memorial Altar @ May Day

Date: **May 1, 2024**

Time: 10:00 AM

@ 17080 Arrow Blvd., Fontana, CA 92335

[IE May Day Flier](#)

[Donate to Worksafe](#)

Worksafe in the News

- [California tries again to protect workers from indoor heat — except in prisons](#), CalMatters, 4/18/24
- [California wants to protect indoor workers from heat. That goal is now in limbo](#), NPR, 3/23/24
- ['They Are at Risk': California Workers May Wait Longer for Heat-Illness Protections](#), KQED News, 3/22/24
- [California workers must wait even longer for indoor heat protections](#), CalMatters, 3/22/24
- [Newsom Stays Silent on Cal-OSHA Staffing Crisis as Legislators and Advocates Call for Action](#), Sacramento Bee, 3/13/24
- [California Nears Approving Nation's Toughest Lead Exposure Rules](#), Bloomberg Law, 2/14/24



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