



DEPARTMENTAL
GENERAL
ORDER

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OSHA

OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENTS

The purpose of this order is to set forth procedures for reporting deaths, serious illnesses, and injuries sustained by citizens in connection with their employment. The reporting requirements for the private and public sectors are both now governed by the California Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) of 1973. Although members and employees are also covered by State OSHA provisions, the reporting requirements set forth in [Departmental General Order D-4, SICK AND INJURY PROCEDURES](#), shall be followed.

I. DEFINITIONS: STATE OSHA

- A. Employment is defined as any trade, enterprise, project, industry, business, occupation, or work (except household domestic service) or any process or operation relating thereto (Labor Code Section 6303(b)).
- B. Occupational or industrial illnesses, injuries and deaths are those which occur in connection with employment, unless they result from:
 - 1. An accident on a public street or highway (Labor Code Section 6302 (h)).
 - 2. A Penal Code violation, other than a violation of PC 385. (Accidents resulting from equipment near high voltage lines (PC 385) are defined as industrial per Labor Code Section 6302 (h)).

- C. Occupational illnesses are defined as any abnormal condition or disorder caused by exposure to environmental factors associated with employment, including acute and chronic illnesses or diseases which may be caused by inhalation, absorption, ingestion or direct contact (Labor Code Section 6409(b)).
- D. Labor Code Section 6302 (h) defines an occupational injury or illness as serious if the person:
 - 1. Requires inpatient hospitalization for more than 24 hours for other than medical observation.
 - 2. Suffers the loss of any part of the body.
 - 3. Is permanently disfigured.
 - 4. Is killed.
- E. Serious exposure is defined as any exposure of an employee to a hazardous substance as a result of an incident, accident, emergency, or exposure over time in a degree or amount sufficient to create a probability that death or serious physical harm in the future could result from the exposure (Labor Code Section 6302 (i)).

II. JURISDICTION

In 1989, the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration was granted jurisdiction over occupational injuries and illnesses involving private and public sector work sites. The only exceptions are occupational accidents, which occur on federal property and are the jurisdiction of Federal OSHA.

III. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- A. Departmental personnel are not required to submit written reports of serious occupational accidents by members or employees to Cal

OSHA or Federal OSHA. Owners, managers and custodians of the work sites involved, are responsible for the required written reports.

- B. Cal OSHA requires a telephone report from members responding to a serious occupational accident involving private or public sector employee work sites. Serious occupational accidents that occur on federal property should also be reported to Cal OSHA who will notify Federal OSHA.
- C. Federal OSHA has no reporting requirements for members.

IV. REPORTING PROCEDURES

- A. Members shall be assigned to the scene of reported industrial accidents if a fatality is known or believed to have occurred, or if there is a need for police presence at the scene (rescue assistance, criminal activity, etc.)
- B. The need for ambulance service shall be evaluated separately in accordance with General Order I-4, **AMBULANCE SERVICE**.
- C. Labor Code Section 6409.2 requires a peace officer or firefighter who responds to the scene of a serious private or public sector accident or death to immediately report the incident by telephone to the nearest office of the State Division of Occupational Safety and Health.
 - 1. Whenever both fire and police personnel respond to an occupational accident, the senior Police Department representative at the scene shall assume responsibility for making the telephone report.
 - 2. The report shall include as much of the following information as possible:
 - a. The name, ages and address of the injured, ill or deceased person.

- b. The name and address of the employing agency or business and the type of industry.
 - c. The date, time and location of the accident.
3. As soon as conditions permit, but not more than 8 hours following the incident, the member shall telephone the above information to the district office of the State Division of Occupational Safety and Health at (510) 622-2916.

By order of

Richard L. Word
Chief of Police