CALIFORNIA INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE COUNCIL

A LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL TO REDUCE WORKPLACE INJURIES AND DEATHS
THE PROBLEM

Not a week goes by in California without at least one workplace fatality, and most weeks many more, adding up to hundreds of workplace deaths every year.

Each fatality devastates a family and has negative impacts on the employer, employees and the workplace.
THE NUMBERS

Last year there were 334 workplace deaths.
81 died in the goods production industry.
69 deaths were related to falls, slips or trips.
59 deaths were related to transportation incidents.
47 deaths were related to construction.
37 deaths were a result of contact with equipment.
34 deaths were caused by exposure to harmful substances or environments.
INTENTIONAL INCIDENTS

Tragically, 2014 saw 72 deaths related to workplace violence.

12 women and 60 men were killed at work.

The majority of those killed were between 35 and 54 years of age.

25 were in sales or related occupations.

22 victims were in management positions.

18 were in service occupations.
PREVENTION

A great majority of workplace injuries and fatalities are preventable.

Most incidents occur in small to medium sized companies with little or no ongoing professional safety or industrial hygiene expertise.
THE PROPOSAL

In the event of harmful exposure to a chemical or substance, serious injury or workplace death, the employer shall be required to consult with a qualified professional to determine what corrective actions are appropriate.
A “qualified professional” means a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) or a Certified Safety Professional (CSP).
COMPETENT PERSON

A person who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions that are unsanitary, hazardous or dangerous to employees, and who has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate those conditions.
LONG TERM OBJECTIVES

Do Initial assessment
Recommend solutions
Set up ongoing Health and Safety Program
Provide training for client’s designated personnel.