

Collaboration: Essential for Promoting the Health of California's Workers

Barbara Materna, PhD, CIH
Chief, Occupational Health Branch

*4th Annual Occupational Health and
Industrial Hygiene Summit; CIHC & AIHA/SVS
March 12, 2020; Sacramento*

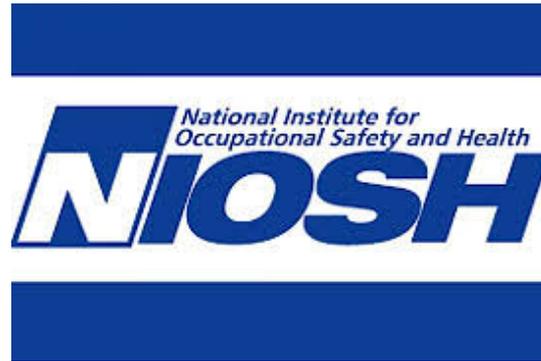


Center for Healthy Communities
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The State of California's role in protecting workers



First some history



1970



1973

Worker health tragedy, Lathrop, CA, 1977



Since 1978: CA gov't infrastructure for OH

Regulations, enforcement,
workers' compensation

Dept. of
Industrial
Relations

Dept. of
Health
Services

(now CDPH)

University
of Calif.

Surveillance, investigation, intervention

Research & training professionals

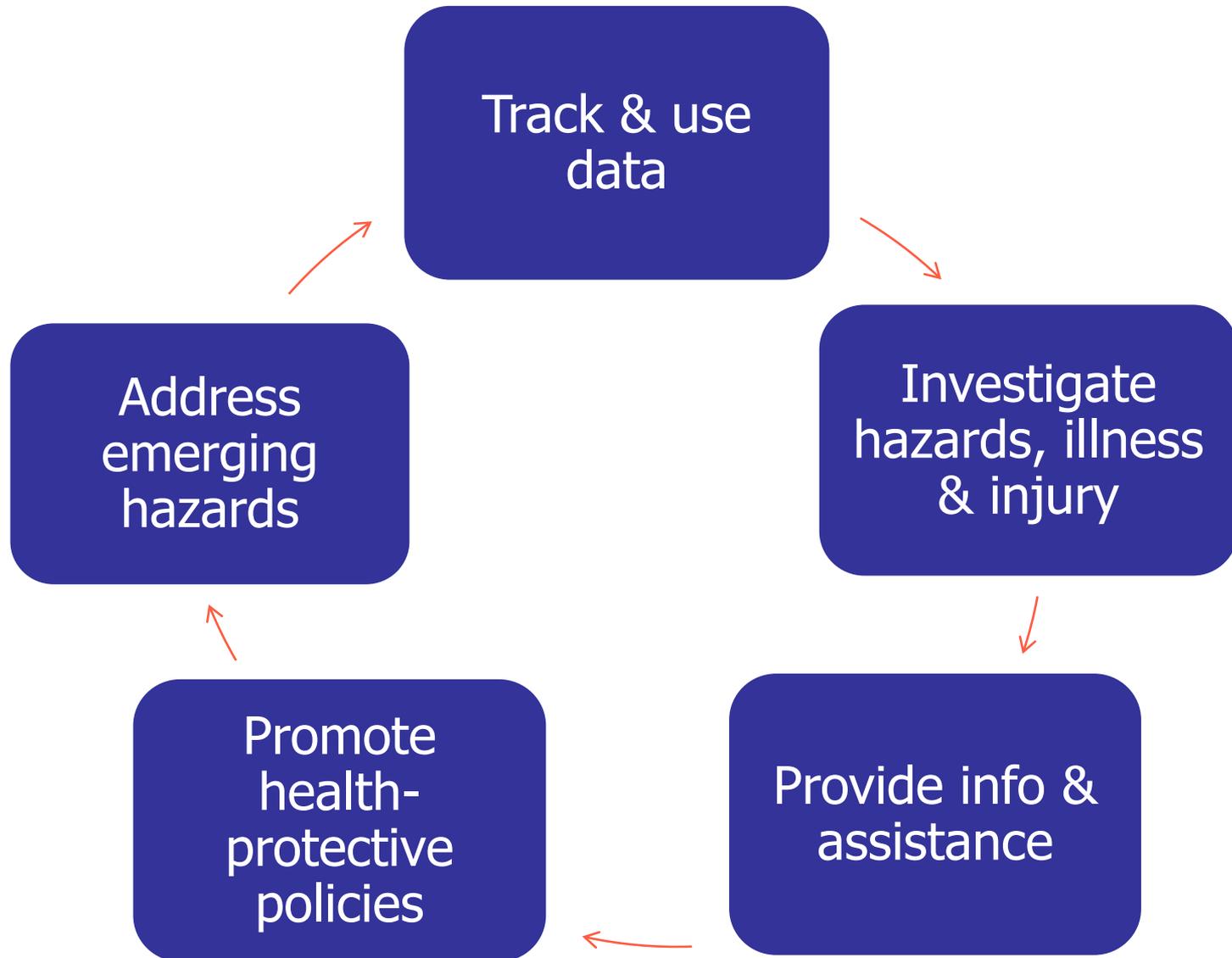
Legislation in 2007



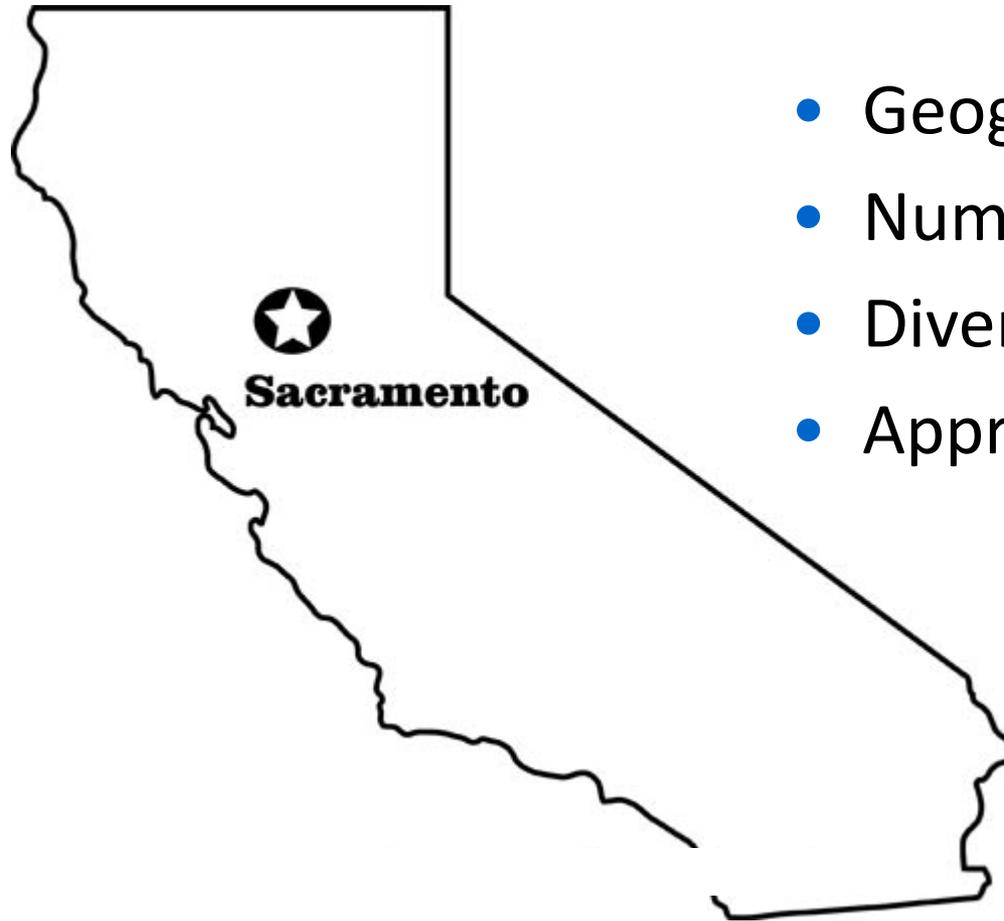
CDPH's Occupational Health Branch
Promoting safe & healthy workplaces



How **OHB** promotes safe & healthy workplaces



Why is collaboration essential for achieving safe & healthy workplaces?



- Geography
- Numbers
- Diversity
- Approaches

How does OHB work with Cal/OSHA?

- Identify new areas where regulation is needed
- Provide scientific support for standards setting
- Refer workplaces with serious hazards for enforcement
- Collaborate on investigations, outreach, or emergency response
- Communicate regularly

Who might collaborate toward protecting the health of California's workers?

- Legislature
- Government agencies
- Workers' comp insurers
- Academia
- Employers/trade groups
- Unions/worker advocates
- Healthcare providers
- Health & safety professionals

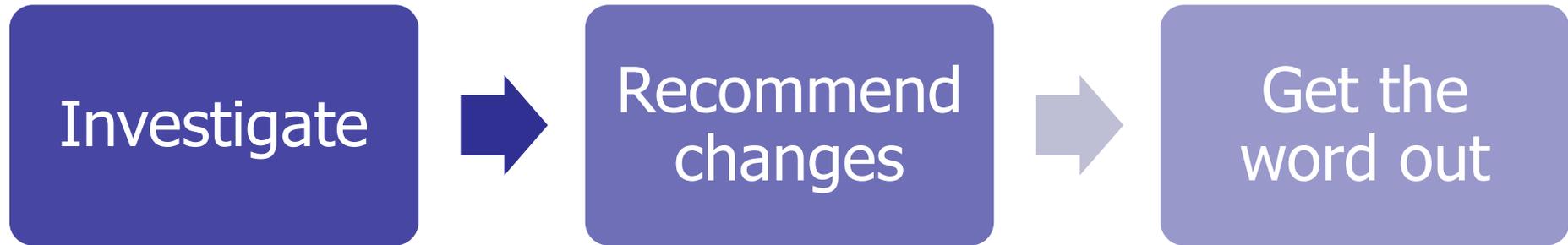


Some stories about OHB collaboration

- Silicosis
- Lead poisoning
- Valley fever



OHB's basic approach



Severe silicosis in engineered stone countertop fabrication workers



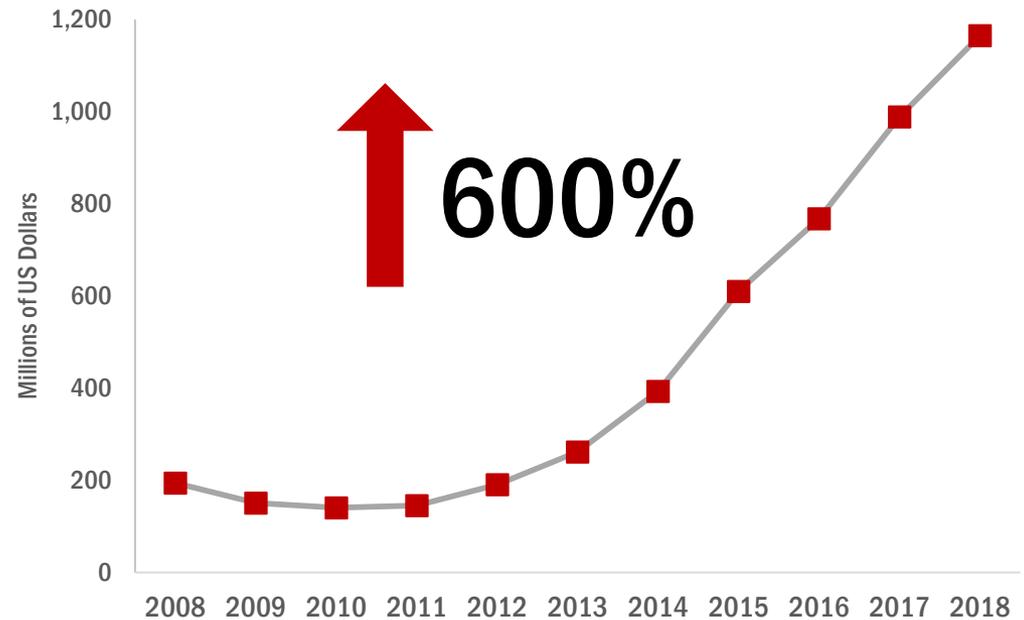
Engineered stone: an emerging threat



Engineered stone: an emerging threat



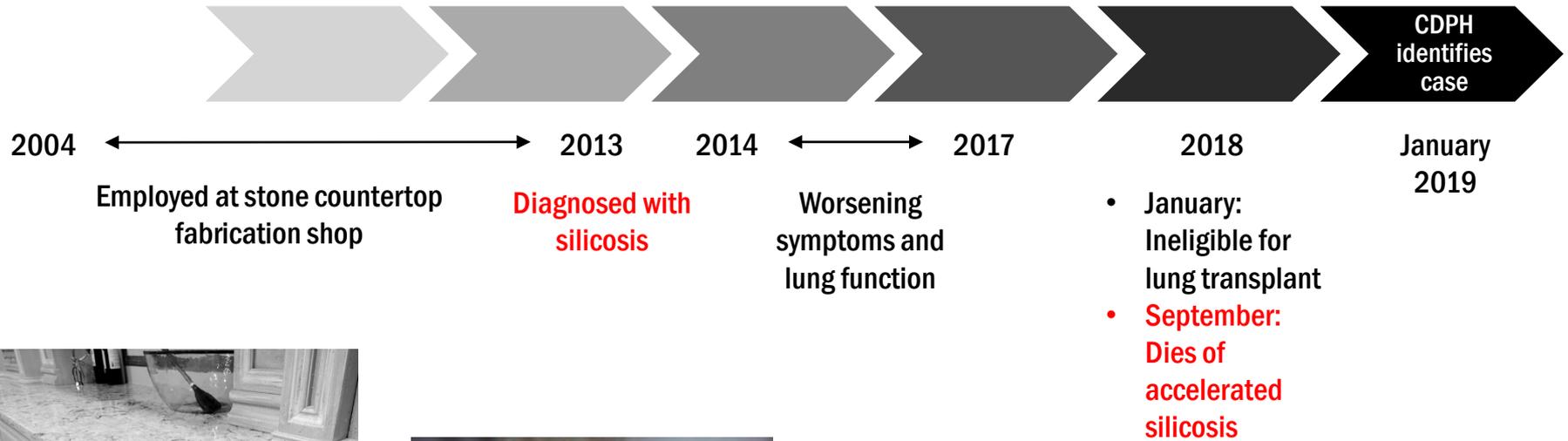
Quartz surface imports to the United States, 2008-2018



The index case



The index case



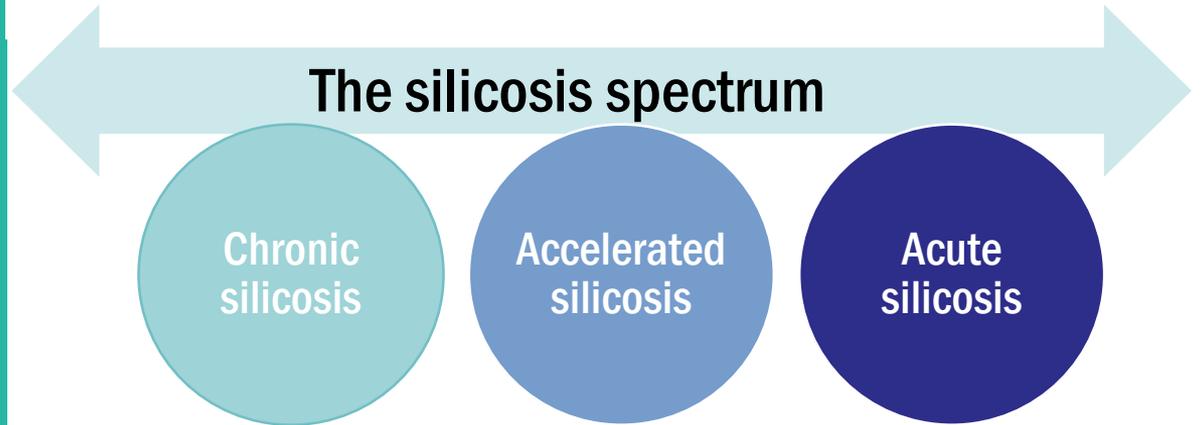
SILICOSIS

Occupational lung disease

Inhaling the dust can cause scar tissue to form in the lungs that reduces the lungs' ability to extract oxygen from the air

Silica dust particles can embed in the lungs where they can't be cleared by mucus or coughing

Alveolar sacs



Silicosis is preventable



Standard requirements:

- Lower PEL
- Exposure control and monitoring
- Medical surveillance

Silicosis in stone fabrication workers in California

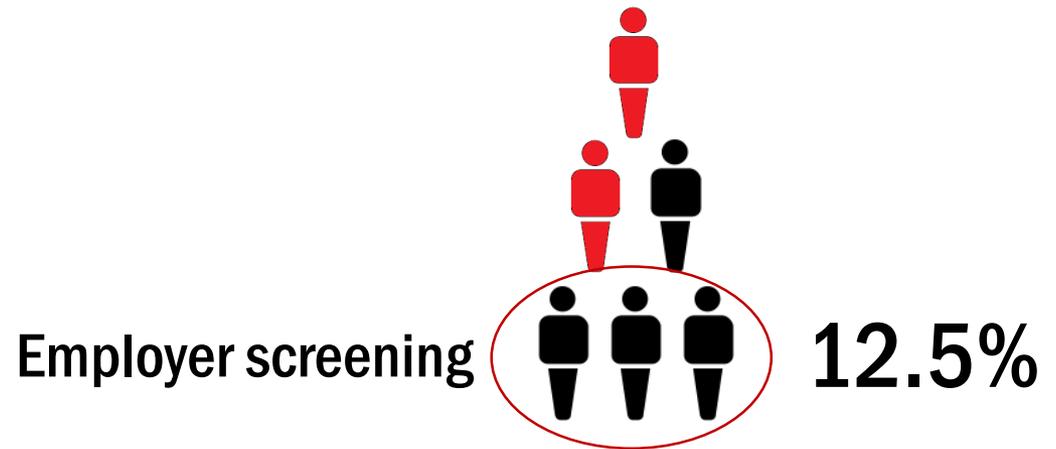


Index case



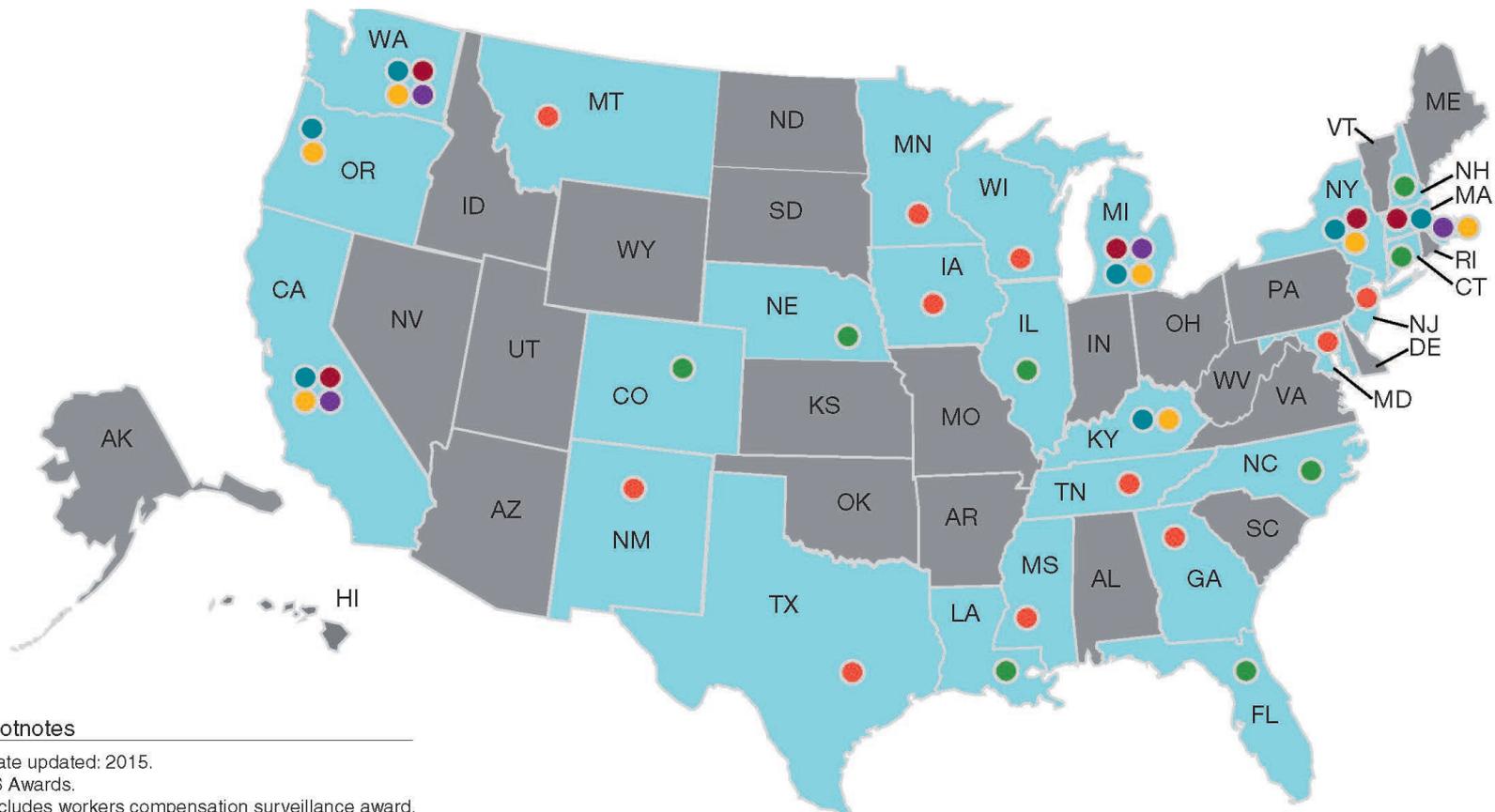
Investigation with Cal/OSHA

Silicosis in stone fabrication workers in California



All were Hispanic men.
5 of 6 were ≤ 40 at diagnosis.

Network of NIOSH-funded states for occupational public health



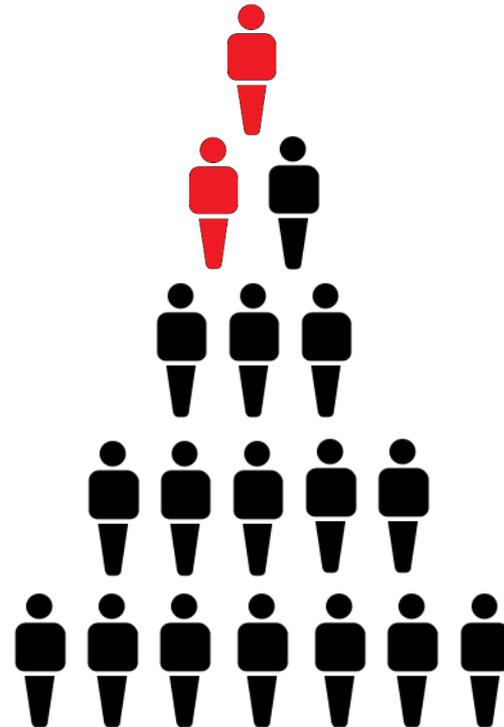
Footnotes

*Date updated: 2015.

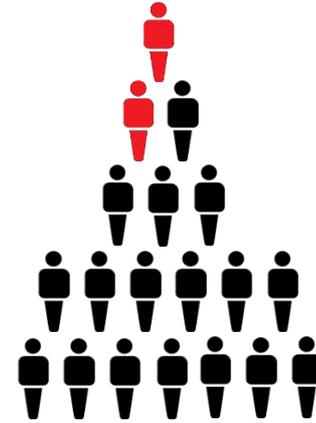
†26 Awards.

‡Includes workers compensation surveillance award.

Silicosis in stone fabrication workers in the U.S.



How many cases are there?



U.S. stone fabrication:

8,694 establishments

96,366 workers

Getting the word out

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
MMWR | **Silicosis in Stone Fabrication Workers**

Silicosis	Workers are at risk	How to protect workers
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Incurable lung disease• Occurs after breathing silica dust 	<p>18 cases in 4 states 2 deaths</p> <p>Most worked with engineered stone</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Control and monitor exposures• Comply with standards• Conduct medical screening  

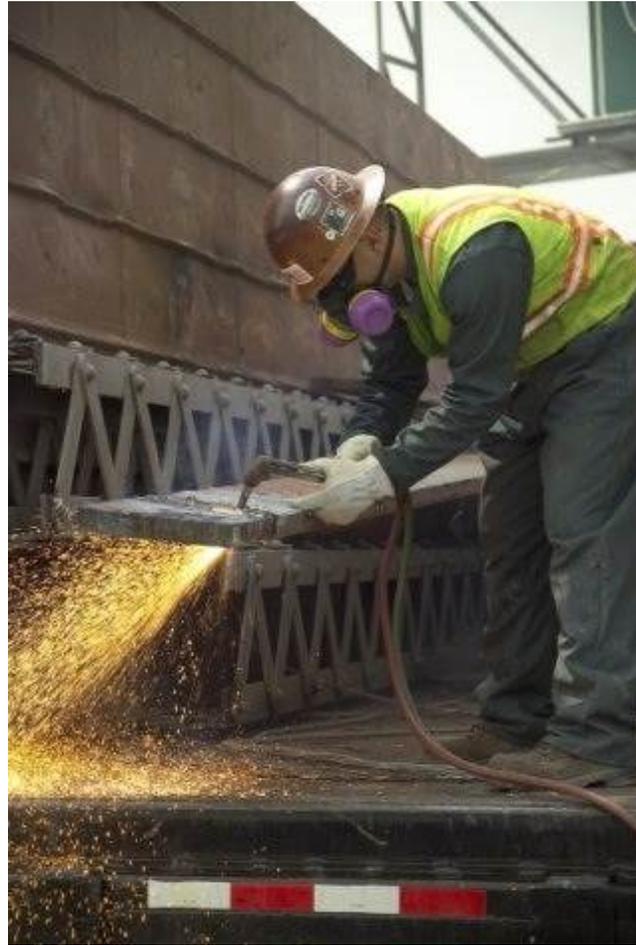
Cases identified in CA, CO, WA, and TX through surveillance and case reports as published in Rose, Heinzerling, et al. *MMWR* 2019. bit.ly/CDCVA31

WWW.CDC.GOV

OS 292376-AB

www.cdph.ca.gov/silica-stonefabricators

Lead poisoning prevention

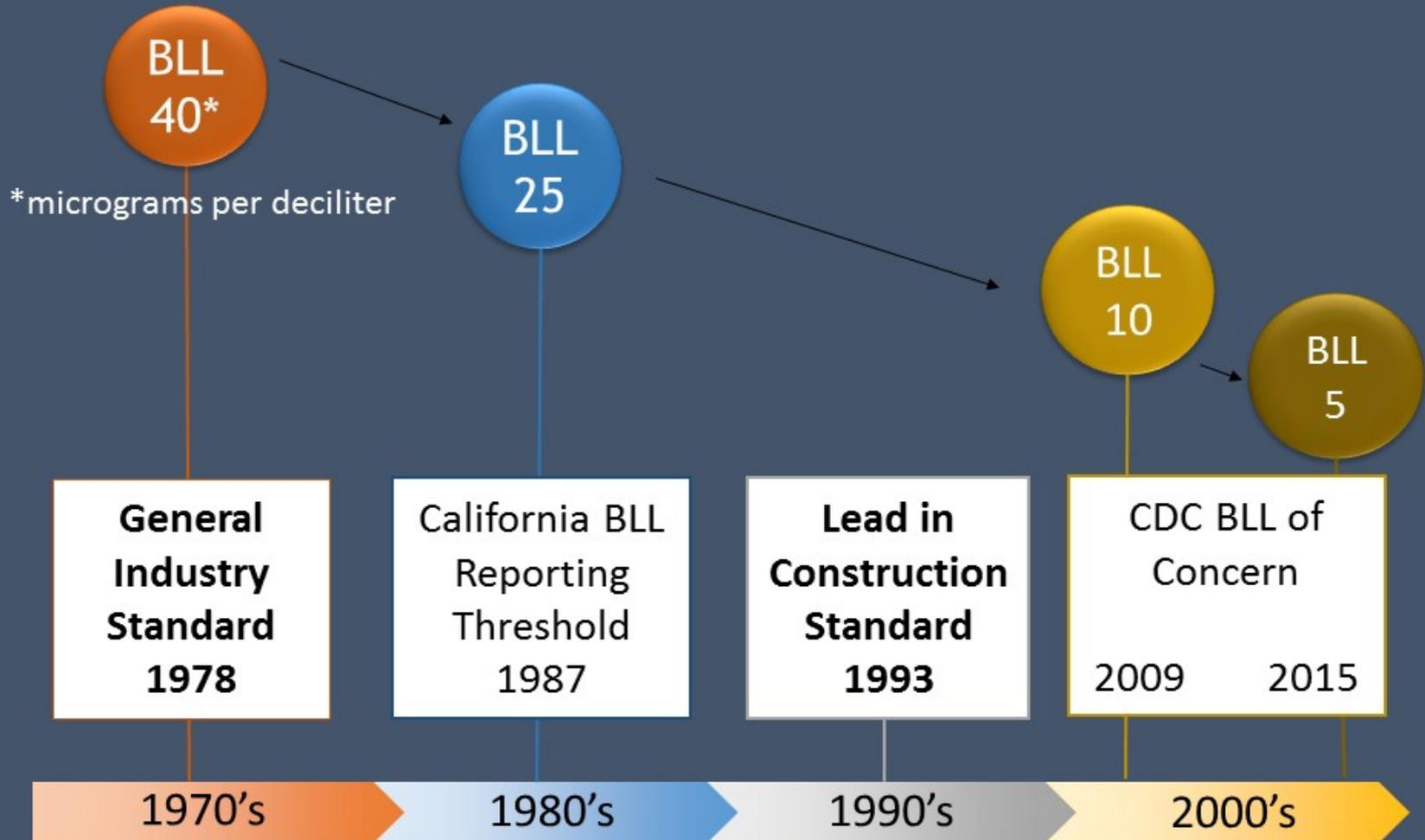


2013 Lead Symposium at UC Berkeley



Photo credit: Kevin Thompson

Changing blood lead level goals



Legislative deadline for new Cal/OSHA lead standards: **September 30, 2020**

What you can do?

- Respond to the OSH Standards Board during public comment period
- Work with CDPH on tools for compliance

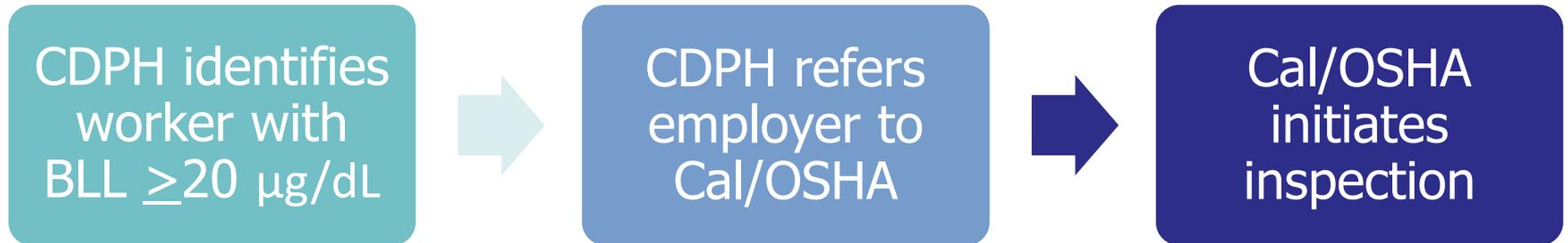


The screenshot shows the website of the Occupational Safety & Health Standards Board. The navigation bar includes links for Labor Law, Cal/OSHA - Safety & Health, Workers' Comp, Self Insurance, Apprenticeship, Director's Office, and Boards. The main content area is titled "Proposed Regulations" and provides information about the board's monthly meetings and the process of adopting regulations. A table lists two proposed regulations with their respective public hearing dates.

Proposed Regulation	Status
Section 3389(a) Life Rings and Personal Flotation Devices (PFD) in Marine Terminal Operations Notice of Rulemaking: Aug. 31, 2018	Public Hearing: Oct. 18, 2018
Section 3999(b) Guarding of Conveyor Belt Support Rollers - Note	Public Hearing: Apr. 19, 2018

New legislation to increase lead enforcement

Chapter 710, Statutes of 2019 (AB 35 Kalra)
Effective January 1, 2019



How are AB 35 notifications working?

For January-February 2020:

- 53 BLLs \geq 20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ received for 39 persons
- 12 workers with 20+ BLLs at 9 worksites

NAICS code	Industry description	# worksites
713990	Amusement & recreation (shooting ranges)	4
335911	Storage battery manufacturing	2
331491	Nonferrous metal rolling, drawing, extruding	1
236210	Industrial construction	1
237310	Highway, street & bridge construction	1

Valley fever prevention



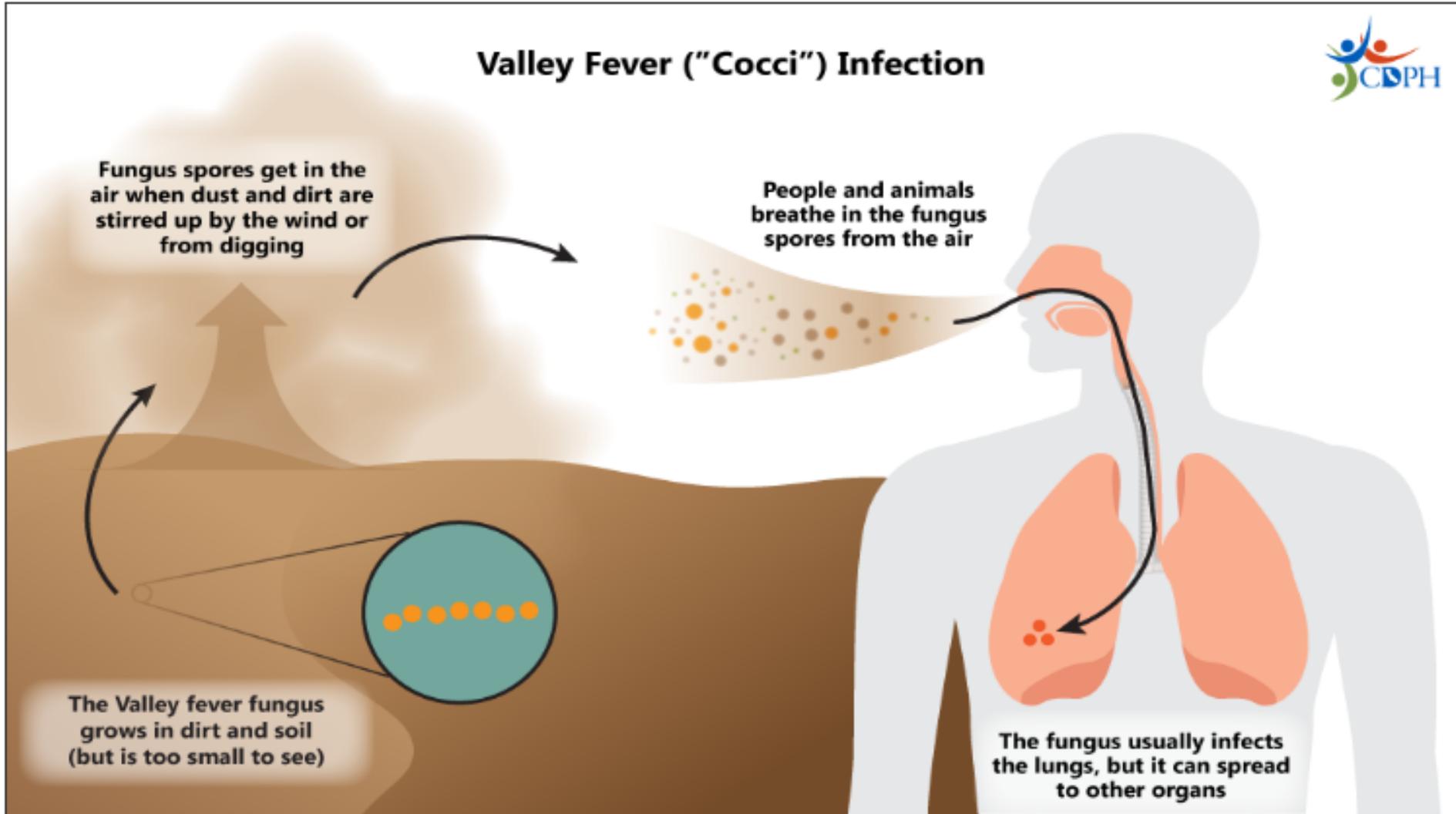
Valley Fever ("Cocci") Infection

Fungus spores get in the air when dust and dirt are stirred up by the wind or from digging

People and animals breathe in the fungus spores from the air

The Valley fever fungus grows in dirt and soil (but is too small to see)

The fungus usually infects the lungs, but it can spread to other organs

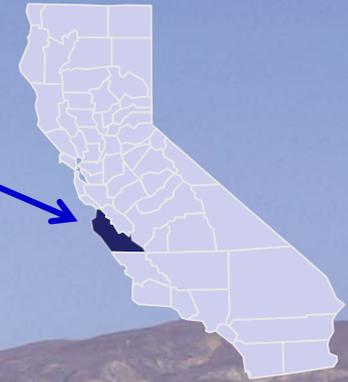


Investigations of Valley fever at construction sites



Photo: San Luis Obispo County Planning Department

Monterey County Solar Farm, 2016–2017

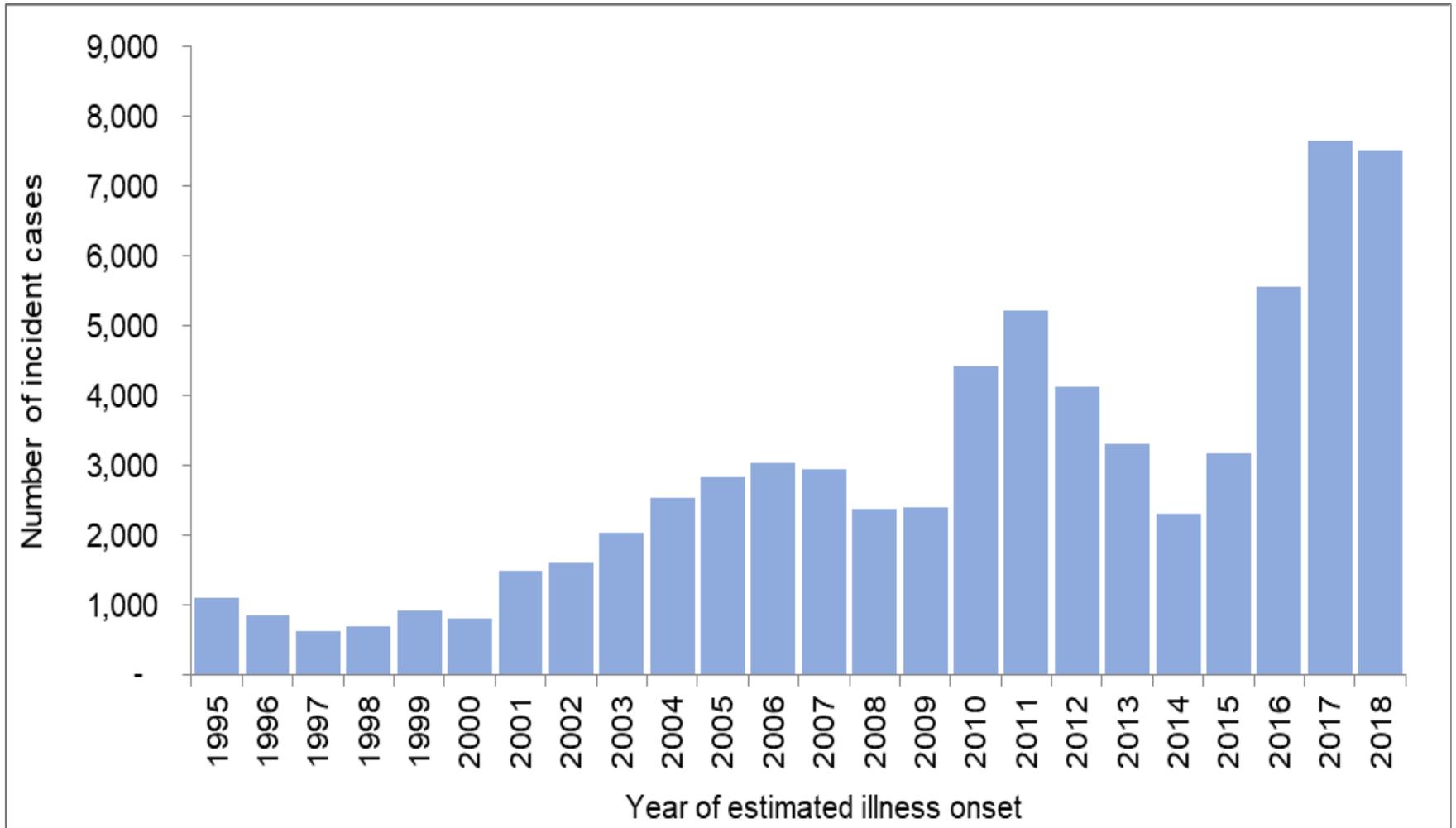


“I’ve never seen so much dust. It was out of control.”

“There was visible dust every hour of the day.”

“There were not enough water trucks to control dust on 3,000 acres so we would start work without wetting the soil.”

Valley fever is increasing in CA



Valley fever awareness campaign

(AB 1790, Salas; Chapter 338, Statutes of 2018)



WORK OUTSIDE IN A DUSTY AREA?
LINGERING COUGH AND FATIGUE?

COULDBEVALLEYFEVER.ORG

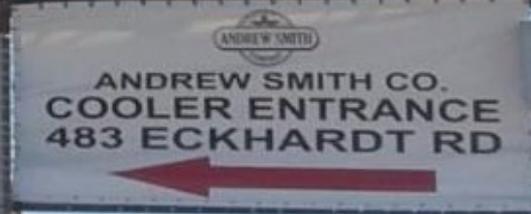


California Department of
Public Health

The billboard features a photograph of a construction worker wearing a yellow hard hat and a blue shirt with a yellow safety vest. He is holding a white cloth to his mouth, appearing to cough. The background of the billboard is a dark, textured surface with a dust-like effect.

OUTFRONT

000381



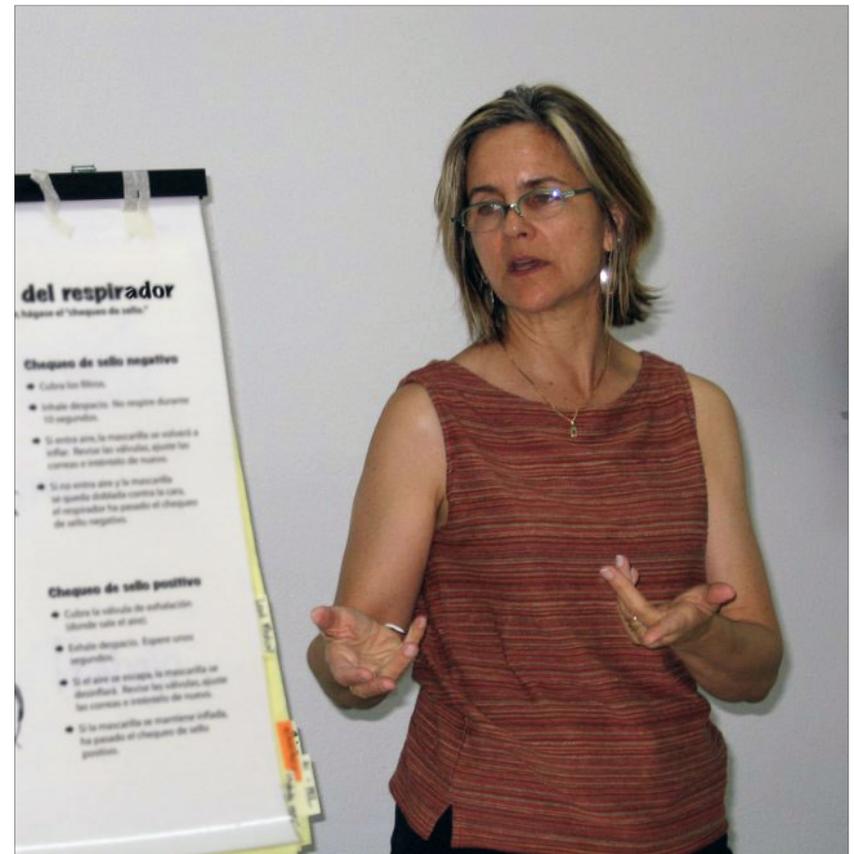
ANDREW SMITH CO.
COOLER ENTRANCE
483 ECKHARDT RD



The sign is white with black text and a red arrow pointing to the left. It is mounted on a metal structure below the billboard.

Training content required by AB 203

- Valley fever—What it is, how you get it
- Groups at greater risk of severe illness
- Symptoms
- Importance of early detection and care



AB 203 required training, con't.

- High risk areas and types of work
- How to prevent exposure



- What to do if you have symptoms
- Treatment and prognosis for Valley fever

CDPH tailgate training guide

- Covers 8 required training areas
- Interactive, easy to use
- Valley fever prevention resources



Search this site

I am looking for

I am a

Programs

A-Z Index

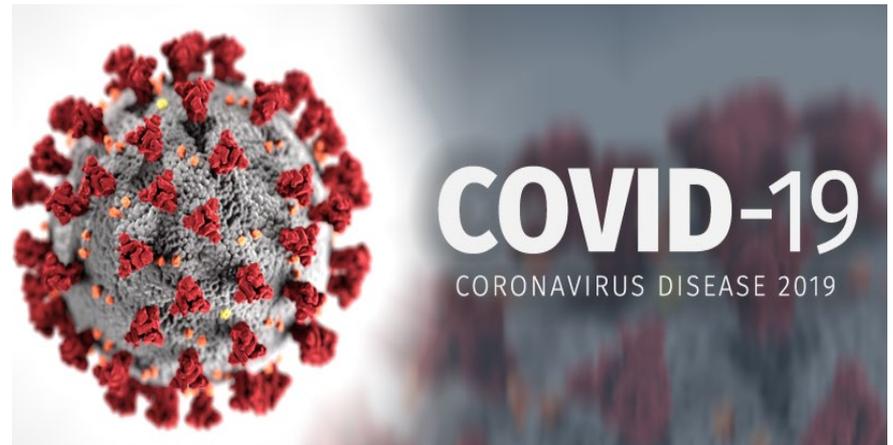
Home | Programs | Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion | Division of Environmental and Occupational Disease Control | Occupational Health Branch |
Work-Related Valley Fever (Coccidioidomycosis)

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH BRANCH

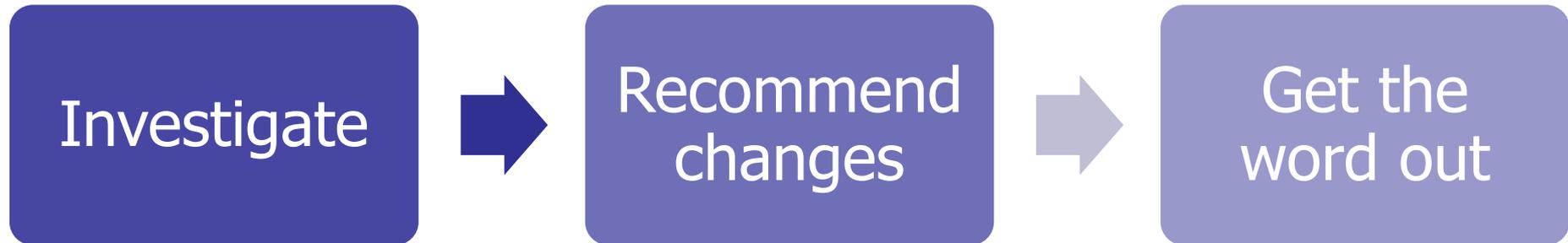


www.cdph.ca.gov/workrelatedvalleyfever

Emergency responses require collaboration



OHB's basic approach



Your help is
needed here!

Stay in touch with OHB

E-newsletter:

*Occupational Health
Watch*

Subscribe:

OHW@cdph.ca.gov

January 2019

Occupational Health Watch



Focus on ...

New A-Z Index of All CDPH Occ Health Resources

Employers, workers, and occupational health advocates looking for resources can now find them in one place on the new A-Z index on the California Department of Public Health [Occupational Health Branch \(OHB\) website](#).

Use OHB's resources & services

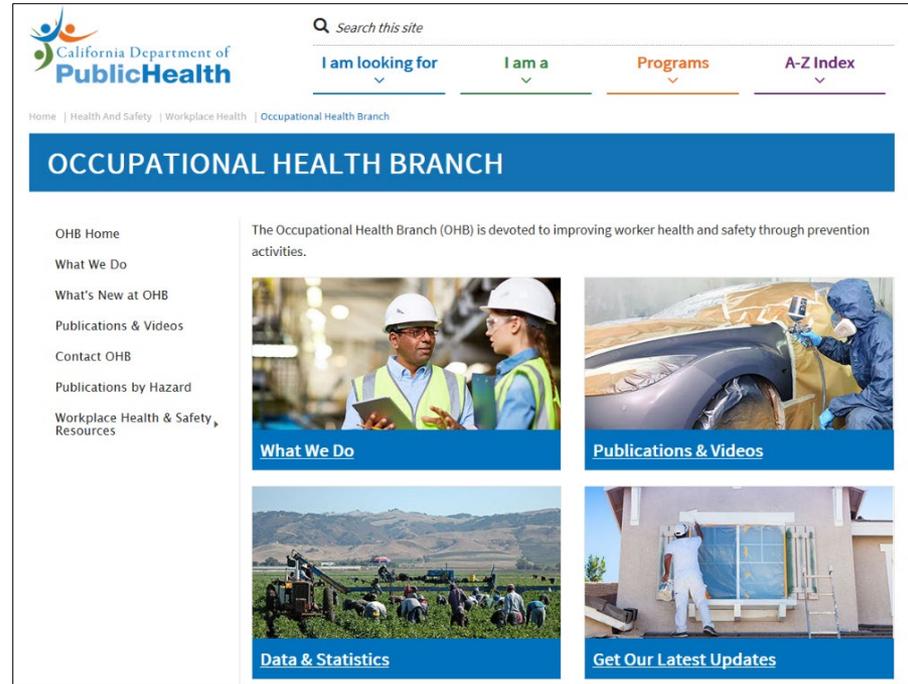
OHB website

www.cdph.ca.gov/OHB

A to Z listing of content

Workplace hazard helpline

1-866-282-5516 (toll-free in CA)



The screenshot displays the Occupational Health Branch (OHB) website. At the top left is the California Department of Public Health logo. A search bar is located at the top right with the text "Search this site". Below the search bar are four navigation tabs: "I am looking for", "I am a", "Programs", and "A-Z Index". A breadcrumb trail reads "Home | Health And Safety | Workplace Health | Occupational Health Branch". A prominent blue banner reads "OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH BRANCH". On the left side, a vertical menu lists: "OHB Home", "What We Do", "What's New at OHB", "Publications & Videos", "Contact OHB", "Publications by Hazard", and "Workplace Health & Safety, Resources". The main content area features a paragraph: "The Occupational Health Branch (OHB) is devoted to improving worker health and safety through prevention activities." Below this are four image-based sections: "What We Do" (two workers in hard hats), "Publications & Videos" (a worker in a hazmat suit), "Data & Statistics" (a field of workers), and "Get Our Latest Updates" (a worker in a white protective suit).

In conclusion



<http://www.thecomicstrips.com/subject/The-Collaboration-Comic-Strips.php>

Barbara Materna, PhD, CIH
Chief, Occupational Health Branch
California Department of Public Health
850 Marina Bay Pkwy, P-3
Richmond CA 94804
barbara.materna@cdph.ca.gov or 510-620-5730