

# **Facts About Cal/OSHA Compliance Field Staff**

February 2006

- Cal/OSHA has not had a permanent Chief since July 2002 and has not had a Deputy Chief for Health since November 2000. The last time all three top Cal/OSHA chief/deputy chief positions were filled was October 2000.
- In January 2006, California had 235 Fish and Game Wardens working in the field, as compared to 169 Cal/OSHA compliance officers making workplace inspections on January 1, 2006.
- The Cal/OSHA Medical Unit had seven physicians and three registered nurses in 1975 – 30 years later it has only one part-time physician and one nurse.
- The Cal/OSHA Appeals Board has a huge backlog of appeals, which reached 8,000 appeals in December 2004, that has caused a delay of more than two years between the issuance of citations and an appeal hearing.

## **Benchmark info**

To have the same inspector-to-worker ratio as Fed OSHA had in April 2004, Cal/OSHA should have 306 inspectors. In fact, Cal/OSHA had 169 inspectors actually at work in the field in January 2006 covering 17.9 million workers and 1.15 million work sites.

## **Ratio comparisons with other agencies**

- **Cal/OSHA:** 1 inspector per 106,178 workers (January 2006)
- **Ontario, Canada, Labour Dept.\*:** 1 inspector per 19,420 workers (December 2005)
- **North Carolina OSHA:** 1 inspector per 18,258 workers (December 2004)
- **Ontario, Canada, Labour Dept.\*:** 1 inspector per 29,778 workers (July 2004)
- **Federal OSHA:** 1 inspector per 58,565 workers (April 2004)
- **Health & Safety Executive (UK):** 1 inspector per 38,571 workers (Sept 2003)
- **Oregon OSHA:** 1 inspector per 22,286 workers (November 2001)
- **Washington State OSHA:** 1 inspector per 21,655 workers (November 2001)
- **British Columbia Labour Dept.:** 1 inspector per 9,549 (November 2001)

\* = The Ontario Labour Department plans to increase the number of workplace health and safety inspectors from 230 to 400 field inspectors between July 2004 and July 2006. By December 2005, the province had 350 inspectors for a civilian labor force of 6,797,100.