

“Fun Facts” About Cal/OSHA Compliance

February 2005

- 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.
- The Cal/OSHA Appeals Board now has a backlog of more than 7,000 appeals and the delay between issuance of citations and the appeal hearing is over two years.
- The Cal/OSHA Medical Unit had seven physicians and three registered nurses in 1975 – 30 years later in 2005 it has one physician and one nurse.
- In February 2005, California had 232 Fish and Game Wardens working in the field, as compared to 181 Cal/OSHA compliance officers making workplace inspections.

Benchmark info

If the 1980 Federal OSHA benchmark ratios were applied in December 2004, Cal/OSHA should have between 1,183 and 1,840 inspectors for ratios of 1 inspector to 15,000 workers and 625 workplaces. To have the same inspector to worker ratio as Fed OSHA had in April 2004, Cal/OSHA should have 303 inspectors. Cal/OSHA had 181 inspectors actually at work in the field in January 2005 covering 17.7 million workers and 1.15 million work sites.

Ratio comparisons with other agencies

- **Cal/OSHA:** 1 inspector per 98,039 workers (December 2004)
- **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 (September 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. The province had a civilian labor force of 6,849,000 in December 2004.