

Cal/OSHA Fact Sheet – April 2003

Staffing issue

Category	1980	March 1994	Nov 2001	April 2003
Civilian Labor Force	11,607,000	15,404,900	17,285,600	17,607,700 (March 2003)
Number of workplaces	500,400	877,629	1,075,523	1,062,775 (March 2003)
Federal OSHA benchmark	805 inspectors	198 inspectors*	198 inspectors*	198 inspectors*
Actual number of DOSH field inspectors	Not available	186 inspectors	200.5 inspectors	173 inspectors
Ratio: inspector to workers	1 inspector : 14,419 workers (benchmark)	1 inspector: 82,822 workers	1 inspector: 86,212 workers	1 inspector: 101,779 workers
Ratio: inspector to workplace	1 inspector: 622 worksites (benchmark)	1 inspector: 4,718 worksites	1 inspector: 5,364 worksites	1 inspector: 6,143 worksites

* = Federal OSHA approved a Cal/OSHA proposal to reduce the staffing benchmarks to 198 compliance officers from 805 officers. (Federal Register, 59:14584-14586, March 29, 1994.)

If the 1980 Federal OSHA benchmark ratios were applied in 2003, Cal/OSHA should have between 1,174 and 1,635 inspectors for ratios of 1 inspector to 15,000 workers and 625 workplaces. The agency had 173 inspectors actually at work in the field in April 2003.

In April 2003, California had 31% more Fish & Game Wardens than workplace health and safety inspectors – 227 wardens v. 173 inspectors.

Comparison in November 2001

Category	California	Oregon	Washington State	British Columbia
Total civilian workforce	17.2 million	1.78 million	2.55 million	1.92 million
Number of workplaces	1.07 million	99,183	217,516	170,000
Number of field inspectors	200.5	80	118	201
Ratio: inspector to worker	1 inspector for 86,212 workers	1 inspector for 22,286 workers	1 inspector for 21,655 workers	1 inspector for 9,549 workers
Ratio: inspector to workplace	1 inspector for 5,364 worksites	1 inspector for 1,239 worksites	1 inspector for 1,834 worksites	1 inspector for 845 worksites

Status in April 2003

California is the fifth largest economy in the world with 17.6 million workers in 1.06 million workplaces. Cal/OSHA has a total of 173 field inspectors for a ratio of 1 inspector per 101,779 workers and 6,143 workplaces. DOSH has 20 field inspectors who speak Spanish, 6 inspectors who speak Chinese, and 1 who speaks Korean.

One or more of the top three **Cal/OSHA leadership** positions have been vacant for significant periods in the last several years. The Chief position was vacant between July 2002 and April 2003. The Deputy Chief for Health position has been vacant since November 2000. The last time all three top positions were filled was October 2000.

The **Cal/OSHA Medical Unit** has 3 staff members, one physician in northern California and two registered Nurses in southern California. In 1975 the Medical Unit had 7 MDs and 3 RNs.

The **Appeals Board** has docketed a growing number of employer appeals: 4,555 in 2000, 5,255 in 2001 and 5,367 in 2002. The Appeals Board is short one of its three members and the last time it had all three members was April 1999. The number of Administrative Law Judges is eight, three in northern California (one is retiring in 2003) and five in southern California. The backlog of cases means that appeal hearings are frequently held 14 to 18 months after the citations were issued.

The **Cal/OSHA Legal Unit**, which represents the Division in the appeals hearings, has a total of 10 attorneys, 4 in northern California and 6 in southern California.

The **Standards Board**, responsible for issuing new and updated regulations, has two vacancies among the seven members. In March 2003 the Standards also lost its longtime Executive Officer, the "eighth member." The last time the Standards Board had all seven members was May 1999.

The **California budget deficit** is estimated to be as high as \$36 billion. In April 2003, all state departments submitted budget reduction plans to cut 10% of personnel costs. If implemented, the revised budget for Cal/OSHA would further reduce the number of compliance officers in the field.