

**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**  
**Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation**  
**Tuesday, September 30, 2025, 9:30 a.m.**  
**State Compensation Insurance Fund Building, Tahoe Parks Meeting Room**  
**2860 Gateway Oaks Dr.**  
**Sacramento, CA 95833**  
**and by Zoom**

**1. Roll Call**

The Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation (CHSWC) public meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m. by Chair Steiger. A quorum of members was present.

**In Attendance:** Mitch Steiger (Chair), Jen Hamelin, Shelley Kessler, Chris Pedroza, Nicholas Roxborough, Meagan Subers

**Absent:** Kristi Montoya, Sidharth Voorakkara

Commissioner Hamelin congratulated Commissioners Kessler and Roxborough on their re-appointment to CHSWC.

**2. Public Comment**

Janice O'Malley, American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), said she was in full support of scope of work submitted by the University of California, Los Angeles, Labor Occupational Safety and Health (UCLA LOSH) to determine the exposures fire mechanics are subjected to at work.

**3. Discussion, recommendation and possible action to approve of minutes of August 14, 2025, public meeting**

On a motion by Commissioner Subers and second by Commissioner Pedroza, August 14, 2025, CHSWC meeting minutes were approved unanimously by all CHSWC Commissioners in attendance.

**Public Comments:**

There were no public comments.

**4. Testimony from stakeholder**

There was none.

**5. Cal/OSHA Update**

**David Wesley, Chief, Division of Occupational Safety and Health, DIR Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) - Update**  
*Presented by David Wesley, Deputy Chief of Field Enforcement, DOSH*

David Wesley discussed four topics in detail: the first was Cal/OSHA improving its systems to better serve California workers and employers, updates about the Agricultural Enforcement Task Force and Outreach Unit, Senate Bill (SB) 1350: Domestic Worker Protections, and lastly an update primarily about lead standards and fall protection.

Mr. Wesley said that Cal/OSHA was modernizing its system by developing a new data management system and updating its policies and procedures. He discussed the role of the Bureau of Investigations. He noted hiring has also been a challenge for Cal/OSHA and discussed current strategies used to improve hiring.

Mr. Wesley also discussed SB 1350 and how it extends Title 8 protections to workers hired by businesses to perform household domestic services, and in certain circumstances, workers employed by private households. The bill went into effect on July 1, 2025, and applies to both temporary and permanent workers.

Mr. Wesley discussed changes to Standards Sections 1532.1 (construction) and 5198 (General Industry). The revisions and a few provisions became effective on January 1, 2025, and the reasons for changing the lead standards changed. The reason was that the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommended a much lower Permissible Exposure Level based on their modeling that determined the exposure to lead in the air and blood.

Mr. Wesley said community partnership through the California Workplace Outreach Project (CWOP) resulted in awards of \$25 million to 89 organizations.

Commissioners provided comments and asked questions including how injured workers can file electronically, audits that occur at Cal/OSHA, and how pay scale at Cal/OSHA compares to the private sector. Commissioners also asked about Cal/OSHA apprenticeships to alleviate staffing shortage.

Commissioners asked about the new data system, staffing challenges, emergency hiring and its authority, vacancy rates at Cal/OSHA, the best way to connect to Cal/OSHA, and how a community-based organization can connect with Cal/OSHA. Other questions were about what the average Cal/OSHA response time is to get to a job site with a violation, the Cal/OSHA compliance program, and Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP). Mr. Wesley provided responses.

Commissioners asked Mr. Wesley to return to a future CHSWC public meeting with updates to filling vacancies, ways that CHSWC can assist in their hiring efforts, communication strategies on the new lead standards, and a few other questions.

**Public Comment:**

Carisa Harris-Adamson, PhD, Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine at UCSF and Director of the Center of Occupational and Environmental Health at UC Berkeley, commented on education and training for industrial hygienists, internships, and expertise in wearables technology.

**6. Approval of Proposal for Assessment of Risk of Carcinogens Exposure and Incidents of Occupational Cancer Among Mechanics and Cleaners of Firefighting Vehicles**

*Presented by Kevin Riley, PhD, MPH, Director, University of California, Los Angeles, Labor Occupational Safety & Health Program (UCLA LOSH)*

On a motion by Commissioner Hamelin and second by Commissioner Kessler, the proposal "Assessment of Risk of Carcinogens Exposure and Incidents of Occupational Cancer Among Mechanics and Cleaners of Firefighting Vehicles" was approved. The votes were as follows:

AYES: Hamelin, Kessler, Pedroza, Roxborough, Steiger, Subers

NOES: None

ABSENT: Montoya, Voorakkara

Kevin Riley presented the proposal titled “Assessment of Risk of Carcinogens Exposure and Incidents of Occupational Cancer Among Mechanics and Cleaners of Firefighting Vehicles” which provided details about research questions and methods that will be used to answer several research questions. Dr. Riley also offered an option for an additional cost to expand the geographical area for site visits.

Commissioners provided comments and asked questions. Commissioners appreciated the study’s emphasis on prevention. Commissioners were interested in expanding the geographical site visits and asked how to get additional funding. Executive Officer Flores answered questions about funding. Also, Dr. Riley stated that LOSH will work closely with Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (COEH) and with different stakeholders including AFSCME and other professional associations to use mechanics from diverse locations.

**Public Comments:**

Janice O’Malley, AFSCME, spoke in support.

**7. Approval of the Draft Report on Employer Use of Prepaid Card Account Programs for Workers’ Compensation Disability Indemnity Payments in California: California Senate Bill 880 (2018) and California Labor Code §4651**

<https://www.dir.ca.gov/chswc/Reports/2025/Prepaid-2025.pdf>

*Presented by Melissa Flores, Executive Officer*

Executive Officer Melissa Flores presented the draft report, and she prefaced her presentation with the introduction of the lead researcher, Chris Bailey, and acknowledged the researcher supervising this and all CHSWC research, Irina Nemirovsky.

<https://www.dir.ca.gov/chswc/Meetings/2025/09-30-2025-Pres-Prepaid-Card.pdf>

Commissioners asked if fees are charged to the employees, why only one payer offered the prepaid card, if it is working for employees, how employees are informed of the prepaid card option and the opt-out process. Ms. Flores provided responses. Ms. Flores noted that additional information will be gathered and included in an updated report that will be brought to the next CHSWC meeting for consideration.

**Public Comments:**

David Chetcuti, a Professor who teaches a law class about debit cards, provided an explanation with background on the legislation to allow the pilot program.

The “Draft Report on Employer Use of Prepaid Card Account Programs for Workers’ Compensation Disability Indemnity Payments in California: California Senate Bill 880 (2018) and California Labor Code §4651 ” was not approved due to a specific quorum requirement for CHSWC that at least two members representing each Employers and Labor vote with the majority . There were not enough approval votes obtained from the Employer representatives. The updated report will be presented again for CHSWC approval at the next CHSWC meeting in December.

## **8. Report from the Executive Officer**

*Presented by Melissa Flores, Executive Officer*

- On September 10<sup>th</sup>, the UC Berkeley, UCLA and UC-Davis partner resource centers and CHSWC held their WOSHTEP Advisory Board meeting in Oakland to discuss guidance and plans for the program in the new year; 36 attendees were present online and in-person.
- A November 21<sup>st</sup> SASH Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled to be held virtually.
- Budget issues have impacted CHSWC. CHSWC was asked to present the WOSHTEP program as a model program for other jurisdictions at the October 5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> IAIABC National Convention in Milwaukee, WI but CHSWC did not get travel approval from DIR for \$3500 to attend.
- The 2026 CHSWC Public Meetings' dates are still being finalized, pending availability responses from Commissioners.

Related to the Commissioners' interest in heat-related illness and personal monitoring, Ms. Flores indicated her intention to assemble a panel for the December meeting with representation from Cal/OSHA, Dr. Harris, recommendations from Chair Mitch Steiger for a farm worker representative, as well as a manufacturer of monitoring devices.

## **9. Standing Written Reports**

a. Legislative Update

<https://www.dir.ca.gov/chswc/Meetings/2025/09-30-2025-Leg-Update.pdf>

b. Mandated Reports & Other Studies Status

<https://www.dir.ca.gov/chswc/Meetings/2025/09-30-2025-Leg-Mandates.pdf>

## **10. Other Commission Matters**

Commissioner Subers commented on the two studies on PTSD for emergency dispatchers and suggested that the data extract study might be done in-house and provided sooner. Ms. Flores provided some additional information and said that she would inquire into it further.

Another concern about delays in data requests was raised. It was proposed to invite DWC to respond to this concern at the December meeting.

Chair Steiger requested a panel presentation at a future CHSWC meeting in early 2026 to provide information on the medical care process and opportunities to reduce delays. CHSWC could use this opportunity to recommend reforms through policy, legislation and regulation.

## **11. Adjournment**

On a motion by Commissioner Hamelin and seconded by Commissioner Subers, Chair Steiger adjourned the meeting at 12:13 p.m. by unanimous consent of all members in attendance.

Approved:

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Mitch Steiger, Chair

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Date

Respectfully submitted:

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Melissa Flores, Executive Officer, CHSWC

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Date