

File a workplace safety complaint

You have the right to file a confidential complaint with Cal/OSHA about a workplace hazard or unsafe condition.

To file a complaint, contact the Cal/OSHA district office that serves the location where you work by using one of these options:

- Use your smartphone to scan the QR code below to be directed to Cal/OSHA's webpage for filing a workplace safety complaint.



- Go to Cal/OSHA's home page: www.cal-osh.ca.gov and click 'File a workplace safety complaint' under 'Quick Links' on the top right.
- Call 1-844-LABOR-DIR (1-844-522-6734):
 - During business hours (8 a.m-5p.m.)
 - Press '1' for English or '2' for Spanish
 - Press '4' for Cal/OSHA
 - Press '*' to speak with an agent, or input your ZIP code to be connected with the office that serves the location of your worksite
 - After business hours:
 - Press '1' for English or '2' for Spanish
 - Press '2' for Cal/OSHA
 - Dial your zip code and leave a message

Cal/OSHA enforces workplace safety and health standards

The California Division of Occupational Safety and Health, also known as Cal/OSHA, is the state agency that enforces workplace safety and health standards.

Cal/OSHA investigates workplace accidents and complaints of unsafe or unhealthy working conditions.



Please visit Cal/OSHA's website:

www.cal-osh.ca.gov
www.dir.ca.gov

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Tree Work Safety *for workers and employers*



What is Tree Work?

Tree work operations include trimming, pruning, felling, and removal of trees and bushes.

Tree work activities can involve:

- Climbing trees
- Using portable ladders and aerial devices
- Working at heights while using power tools
- Working near energized overhead or downed power lines
- Operating wood chippers

Tree Work Hazards

Tree work hazards can result in serious injury or death. Proper training and techniques can help avoid these common hazards:

- Falls
- Struck by tree branch or falling objects
- Palm tree skirt collapse and suffocation
- Chainsaw laceration
- Wood chipper accident
- Ladder accident
- Electric shock
- Harmful plant, insect, or animal exposure
- Heat illness

Heat Illness Prevention

Employers with outdoor workers must have a heat illness prevention plan and workers must be trained on how to prevent heat illness.

Cal/OSHA's regulation requires water, rest, and shade be provided at outdoor work sites.

Learn more about heat illness prevention on Cal/OSHA's website: 99calor.org/english.html

Improve Tree Work Safety

Employers:

Develop and maintain a workplace safety and health plan written in a language all workers understand

- The plan should identify hazards for all tasks performed and equipment used, and provide safe work procedures to avoid those hazards.
- For tree work, it is important to conduct a daily job site inspection and hazard assessment at the start of each workday.

Provide safety training to workers

- Training should address how to safely perform tree work and avoid hazards.
- Include instruction on fall prevention, communication methods, first aid, emergency response and rescue procedures.

Ensure proper use and maintenance of tools and personal protective equipment (PPE)

- Inspect all tools, PPE, and safety equipment before each use.
- Safety equipment includes harnesses, belts, tree saddles, ropes, and lanyards.
- PPE includes hard hats, face shields, safety glasses and shoes, gloves, high visibility clothing, and hearing protection.
- Tools and equipment can include chainsaws, chippers, trimmers, and pole pruners.

Be a Qualified Tree Worker

Workers:

Avoid hazards by taking steps to be a qualified tree worker

- Actively participate in the safety, health, and tree work training provided by your employer.
- Demonstrate familiarity with the hazards associated with tree work and how to avoid those hazards.
- Properly use tree work tools and safety equipment.
- Help create and participate in a culture of safety at your tree work company by adhering to safe work practices.
- Notify your employer of workplace hazards, or contact Cal/OSHA (see back panel).



More resources on tree work safety:

- Cal/OSHA offers free consultation services to help employers improve their safety and health programs. Contact Cal/OSHA Consultation at 1-800-963-9424 or visit www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/consultation.html
- Cal/OSHA Tree Work Safety web page: www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/Tree-Work-Safety.html