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State of California

DWCNewsline

Division of Workers' Compensation
Carrie Nevans, Acting Administrative Director

1515 Clay Street, 17th floor, Oakland, CA 94612 (510) 286--7100

Internet Web Page: <http://www.dir.ca.gov>

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State Division of Workers' Compensation to hold free Spanish-language seminar on workers' compensation benefits and laws in San Francisco

Seminar marks one year anniversary of the Spanish-language outreach program

The California Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) will conduct a free Spanish-language seminar on workers' compensation benefits and laws in San Francisco on Thursday, Oct. 12 from 6-7 p.m. This seminar, which rotates monthly between San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose, is part of a larger effort to reach the Spanish-speaking community launched a year ago by the division.

"In this first year we've talked directly with hundreds of Spanish-speaking workers," said DWC acting Administrative Director Carrie Nevans. "And we've specifically identified those in high hazard occupations because we know they're more likely to get sick or hurt because of work."

The seminars are set up for employees that have recently filed a workers' compensation claim with their employer, but any worker can benefit from attending and anyone can attend. The San Francisco workshop will be held:

Thursday, Oct. 12, 2006

6-7 p.m.

The Women's Building

3543 18th Street

San Francisco CA

The Bay Area seminars take place on the second Thursday of each month and rotate between three cities, moving to Oakland in November, San Jose in December, back to San Francisco in January and so forth. In addition to the ongoing Bay Area seminar, the division has hosted sessions in Calexico, Los Angeles, Salinas and Fresno.

"We've formed partnerships with other state agencies and community groups to help maximize our effectiveness," said Nevans. "We're now reaching people who may not otherwise have known where to go for help with workers' compensation questions."

At the seminars, held at easily accessible community locations, employees get information on their right to medical treatment, disability payments, returning to work after an injury and resolving a disagreement over a claim.

The DWC also conducts English-language seminars for injured workers on a monthly basis at each of its 24 local offices. A listing of workshop days, times and locations in English and Spanish can be found on DWC's Web site at www.dir.ca.gov/dwc. Click on the link that says, "Injured on the job? Need to know your rights?" Injured workers can also call 1-800-736-7401 to find the workshop near them and hear other recorded information. To go directly to workshop locations in English, callers should press 7, then 7 again, then 1 after dialing the 800 number. Spanish-speaking workers may call 1-800-736-7401 and press 2 for details.

The division also makes workshop posters in English and Spanish available for free to community based organizations, employers, medical providers and others who'd like to post them. Call 510-286-7076 for more information.

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