



## **UCLA Labor Occupational Safety and Health Program BACKGROUND SUMMARY**

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The UCLA Labor Occupational Safety and Health Program (LOSH) is a nationally recognized center to promote worker health and safety with an emphasis on Southern California. LOSH is affiliated with the Center for Occupational and Environmental Health in the School of Public Health and the Institute of Industrial Relations. Founded in 1978, LOSH provides bilingual English-Spanish education programs, researches job conditions of immigrant and low-wage workers, and contributes to occupational safety and health policy issues. LOSH is uniquely situated to bridge university resources and community needs in a region comprising two-thirds of California's workforce and three-quarters of the State's Latino workforce. Twelve academic, professional, and administrative staff with a range of research, education, community outreach and field experience implement LOSH programs on campus and in the community.

LOSH also promotes worker health and safety at the state, regional and national level. It is the lead agency for the Western Region Universities Consortium (WRUC) funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). The Consortium provides hazardous waste/hazmat training through five universities in EPA Regions IX and X, emphasizing outreach to underserved populations such as Spanish-speaking workers and Native American and Alaskan tribes. LOSH recently initiated a training program at West Coast ports, some of the largest and fastest growing in the country, to prevent and prepare for hazmat and security threats.

LOSH partners with the UC Berkeley Labor Occupational Health Program (LOHP) and the California Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation (CHSWC) to implement a statewide worker leadership program, the Worker Occupational Safety and Health Training and Education Program (WOSHTEP). Through the program, LOSH has developed a network of several hundred trained worker health and safety advocates, including members of worksite health and safety committees, union stewards, community health promoters, and trainers who teach in the program.

LOSH programs reach high school and college students. LOSH research demonstrates that young workers are at risk of work injuries but receive little training, and that educated youth reach their peers and non-English speaking parents with information about their rights. LOSH also provides internships for college students interested in exploring the field of worker health and safety.

LOSH training programs emphasize:

- Innovative and participatory education approaches
- Worker leadership
- Joint labor management health and safety programs
- Outreach to low-wage and immigrant workers
- Prioritizing frontline workers in high hazard industries such as garment, manufacturing, construction, janitorial, food service, hotel and laundry
- A worker trainer and training-of-trainers model