

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

Craft-Maintenance Division State of California Unit 12
Locals 3, 39 & 501, AFL-CIO

IUOE Unit 12 Local 39 Files CalOSHA Complaint Against DGS – March 27, 2018

On Thursday March 15, 2018, IUOE Local 39 Business Representative, Chris Kalmar filed a CalOSHA complaint against the Department of General Services (DGS) for putting our groundskeepers' lives at risk.

The complaint charges DGS with failing to provide our members hazmat training, protective gear, best practices for hazardous material abatement, and vaccination against deadly blood borne and airborne pathogens.

The problem was brought to our attention after DGS management insisted that their groundskeepers clean up hazardous materials left behind by homeless people who were camping out in the Capitol Park and the Capitol Mall at night and using the bushes and shrubs to relieve themselves and dispose of their hypodermic needles and other human waste.

In the City of San Diego more than a dozen homeless people died from hepatitis exposure in the homeless camps due to unsanitary conditions.

The City of San Diego hired special hazmat contractors to clean up and decontaminate the sidewalks, alleys, and other spaces frequently used by the homeless.

On Tuesday March 20, 2018, a CalOSHA inspector made an impromptu visit to the Capitol Park and Capitol Mall to talk with our members and management to discuss the concerns raised by the Union.

The results of the CalOSHA investigation are still pending.

Steve Crouch,
Director of Public Employees