On Tuesday, February 27, 2018, IUOE Local 39 Business Representative, Mike Hart filed a CalOSHA complaint against CDCR Salinas Valley State Prison-SVSP in Soledad after one of our members was improperly “fit tested” for a breathing apparatus (respirator) and then passed out and had to be taken to the hospital in an ambulance.

The CDCR did not complete the requisite medical evaluation prior to the fit test and told our member if he did not comply with the direct order to be fit tested he would be insubordinate.

On March 1st CalOSHA notified the IUOE that they were in receipt of the Union’s complaint and sent a letter to the employer (CDCR) requiring them to notify the CalOSHA office within 14 calendar days if the alleged condition exists and if so, to specify what corrective actions have been taken and estimated date of said corrections to be completed.

If CalOSHA does not receive a satisfactory response from CDCR within 14 calendar days, an on-site inspection will be conducted as appropriate.

In addition to pay and benefit issues, the IUOE also takes an aggressive stand on protecting the safety and health of our Union members.

Steve Crouch
Director of Public Employees