Work-related Injuries Among California’s Inmate Laborers

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How did I get here?

Workers’ Compensation Claims

Employment Records

Unmatched Records

The most common occupation description among claims that did not match to employment records was **inmate**.
CALIFORNIA BLAMES INCARCERATED WORKERS FOR UNSAFE CONDITIONS AND AMPUTATIONS

Spencer Moodman
December 28, 2016, 8:23 a.m.

IN SEPTEMBER, AFTER months of organizing via smuggled cellphones
California’s Inmate Laborers
What do they do?

01 Firefighting
4,000 inmates

02 Manufacturing
All office furniture used in state government

03 Emergency Relief
Meal delivery after Oroville Dam overflow

04 E-Waste
Four collection and recycling facilities state-wide
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Claims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>1,491</td>
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1 in 10 inmate laborers is injured?
Part of Body

- Ear: 12%
- Spine: 10%
- Hand: 9%
Nature of Injury

19%  16%  14%
Inmate worker claims she put gloved hands in a bucket of water with chemicals and the solution went inside the gloves and burned both hands.

Hiking on uneven trail, raining, slipped and fell and injured left knee and right ankle.

A transportation van made contact with work truck sending full weight of body to one side.

Inmate sustained full body burns due to gas line explosion (x5).

Exposed to poison oak in brush.

While pulling brush was accidently hit in hand by a chain saw (76 chainsaw injuries).
Do We Care?
Training
Presumption

$$$
$2 per hour
Disenfranchised
Saves state $$$

Training
Presumption

UNION YES

$$$
Inmate claiming burn to bicep from pulling a hot pan out of the oven
“Prisons do not disappear social problems, they disappear human beings. Homelessness, unemployment, drug addiction, mental illness, and illiteracy are only a few of the problems that disappear from public view when the human beings contending with them are relegated to cages.”

Angela Davis