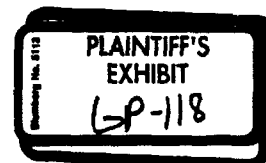


OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE
in CALIFORNIA
ABATE PRODUCTION
1975
MAY 1994

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH BRANCH



GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Almost one-half the occupational disease reports from all industries and nearly two-thirds of those from manufacturing came from three counties: Los Angeles, with a total of 11,273 reports; Orange, 2,743 reports; and Santa Clara, 2,117 reports (Table 10).

FATALITIES

Deaths listed in Table 12 in which pneumoconiosis was the cause come from death records of the California Department of Health. The other fatality reports are derived from employers' reports or records of the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board.

The deaths of 568 workers were attributed to occupational disease in 1975. Silicosis, asbestosis or other pneumoconiosis was recorded as the primary cause or a contributing factor in the death of 87

Californians. Cardiovascular disease accounted for 433 cases, many of these being death claims settled by compromise approved by the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board.

Seven deaths were due to toxic exposures. Two millwrights working in a caisson were asphyxiated by nitrogen gas leaking from a pipe. Another worker, a pest control operator who was not using a respirator, was fatally poisoned by the cyanide gas he was using to exterminate bees. In another accident, a welder pumping degreasing solvent from a tank climbed into the tank and was poisoned by trichloroethane. In addition, the following chemicals were each implicated in 1 fatality: carbon monoxide, methanol and methylene chloride mixture, and an unspecified caustic.

Malignant neoplasms were responsible for 24 of the remaining 41 occupational deaths; 6 were due to infectious diseases; 1 to heat stroke; and 10 to other causes.

Table 5
REPORTS OF OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE BY CAUSAL AGENT AND INDUSTRY GROUP
CALIFORNIA, 1975

CAUSAL AGENT	TOTAL	AGRI- CULTURE	MINERAL EXTRAC- TION	CONSTRU- CTION	MANUFAC- TURING	TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION AND UTILITIES	TRADE	FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	SERVICE	STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT	NOT STATED
Total	12,803	3,183	147	1,776	13,536	1,934	3,497	268	3,643	4,749	70
Asbestos	1,325	42	10	138	843	43	89	9	59	81	1
Asbestos	20	1	1	3	12	1	4	1	2	1	1
Cement, plaster, mortar	102	1	1	43	34	4	4	1	1	9	1
Grass	683	3	1	54	509	17	36	4	29	29	1
Grime sludge	45	2	5	7	25	2	1	1	1	1	1
Wood and paper	90	2	1	12	60	1	8	1	2	5	1
Other and unspecified	385	34	3	19	203	19	39	5	29	34	1
Lead	1,496	60	19	102	504	101	258	23	179	248	1
Ammonia	348	8	1	20	124	18	63	10	53	50	1
Acidic phosphine	21	1	1	1	19	1	1	1	1	1	1
Carbon dioxide	15	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1
Carbon monoxide	130	18	1	13	50	5	20	5	8	10	1
Chlorine	540	18	1	9	184	43	106	6	80	94	1
Fluorine and bromine	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Hydrogen sulfide	37	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Nitrogen oxides	25	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Phosgene	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sulfur dioxide	29	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Solvents	112	5	1	1	40	11	36	1	4	9	1
Hydrocarbons	20	1	1	1	3	2	5	1	1	1	1
Trichloroethylene	51	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other and unspecified	155	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Agricultural Chemicals	1,688	969	1	1	143	68	8	109	303	2	1
Fluorinated hydrocarbon pesticides	110	31	1	1	14	8	6	16	35	1	1
Organophosphorus pesticides	281	172	1	1	32	4	1	12	46	1	1
Carbamates	158	43	1	1	1	12	1	10	90	1	1
Herbicides	203	101	1	1	13	12	1	10	55	1	1
Fertilizers	171	131	1	1	19	6	5	4	6	1	1
Organomercury compounds	45	27	1	1	10	1	1	2	3	1	1
and other fungicides	48	17	1	1	8	3	3	5	5	1	1
Phenolic compounds	110	103	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sulfur	562	344	1	1	42	22	12	3	50	62	1
Other and unspecified	171	131	1	1	19	6	5	4	6	1	1
Metals and Their Compounds	802	10	4	44	643	16	27	1	24	32	1
Aluminum	27	1	1	1	22	1	1	1	1	1	1
Arsenic	12	1	1	1	8	1	1	1	1	1	1
Beryllium	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cadmium	5	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1
Chromium	60	1	1	2	52	1	3	1	2	1	1
Copper	23	2	1	4	15	1	1	1	2	1	1
Iron	26	1	1	3	20	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lead	288	1	1	2	281	1	1	1	1	1	1
Magnesium	9	1	1	1	7	1	2	1	1	1	1
Mercury	12	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	7	1	1
Nickel	16	1	1	1	12	1	2	1	1	1	1
Zinc	48	1	1	7	33	3	3	1	1	1	1
Welding fumes	93	4	1	13	54	3	8	1	2	1	1
Other and unspecified	181	3	1	12	129	6	5	1	8	16	1
Chemicals Generally Used As Solvents	2,318	11	10	81	1,551	102	194	10	199	11	5
Benzene	66	1	1	1	44	2	6	1	10	1	1
Benzene?	111	1	1	8	73	7	6	1	7	1	1
Other hydrocarbon solvents	33	1	1	1	13	4	6	1	2	1	1
Alcohols and ethers	150	1	1	4	91	2	23	1	16	1	1
Esters	18	1	1	1	14	1	1	1	2	1	1
Carbon tetrachloride	16	1	1	1	6	1	2	1	1	1	1
Perchloroethylene	22	1	1	1	14	1	1	1	6	1	1
Trichloroethylene	132	1	1	5	110	5	2	1	7	1	1
Other halogenated	289	1	1	16	201	15	12	1	19	1	1
hydrocarbon solvents	164	1	1	5	135	3	4	1	11	1	1
Acetone	118	1	1	3	98	4	3	1	6	1	1
Methyl ethyl ketone	363	4	1	20	203	21	35	5	34	1	1
and other ketones	71	1	1	1	56	1	10	1	1	1	1
Paint, varnish, lacquer	252	2	4	8	136	10	39	1	38	1	1
thinners and removers	513	1	4	10	357	27	45	3	40	1	1
Degreasers	71	1	1	1	56	1	10	1	1	1	1
Cleaning solvents	252	2	4	8	136	10	39	1	38	1	1
Other and unspecified solvents	513	1	4	10	357	27	45	3	40	1	1

Table 12

FATALITIES ATTRIBUTED TO OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE
CALIFORNIA, 1975

CAUSE OF DEATH	TOTAL	WORK FATALITIES	COMPROMISE AND RELEASE SETTLEMENTS
Total	568		
Toxic Exposures	7	7	-
Carbon monoxide	1	1	-
Cyanide (pesticide)	1	1	-
Methanol and methylene chloride	1	1	-
Nitrogen gas	2	2	-
Trichloro ethane	1	1	-
Organic, unspecified	1	1	-
Infectious Diseases	6	2	4
Coccidioidomycosis	1	1	-
Hepatitis	-	-	1
Pneumonia	1	1	3
Heat Stroke	1	1	-
Malignant Neoplasms	24	3	21
Vascular Diseases	433	96	337
Other Causes			
(Excludes Pneumoconiosis)	10	2	8
Cirrhosis	1	-	1
Emphysema	1	-	1
Ulcer	2	-	2
Other or unspecified	6	2	4
Pneumoconiosis ¹	87		
Among primary causes	48		
Anthracosis (Anthracosilicosis, Black Lung)	14		
Asbestosis	6		
Silicosis	14		
Pneumoconiosis tuberculosis	2		
Pneumoconiosis, other or unspecified	12		
Among contributing factors	39		
Anthracosis (Anthracosilicosis, Black Lung)	12		
Asbestosis	2		
Silicosis	16		
Pneumoconiosis, unspecified	9		

¹ Pneumoconiosis deaths taken from Death Records.

Note: Work fatalities are those deaths for which a Findings Award was determined by the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board or for which the insurance carrier accepted liability without adjudication. Compromise and release settlements consist of agreements made by litigants and approved by the Board. Both categories are reported by year of determination, which is not necessarily the year of death.

Source: State of California, Division of Labor Statistics and Research. *Reports of Fatalities*, and Department of Health, Death Records.