



OUR SAFETY MATTERS

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Code Enforcement Officers risk their lives to uphold the public health, safety and general welfare standards that protect people, property values, and the environment.

One injured Code Enforcement Officer is too many.

This document outlines the two California bills currently in the State Senate designed to protect Code Enforcement Officers, why officer safety matters, and the dangerous incidents, including murders, that have happened to code enforcement officers.

Code Enforcement Officers are urged to take action to ensure Senate Bills 101 and 296 are signed into law. Now more than ever, we must ensure our elected representatives understand that our safety matters.

Visit www.CACEO.us/ActNow to take action

Officer Safety Bills in the California Legislature

Senate Bill 101 The DMV Bill (Senator Jim Nielsen)

SB 101 would close the loophole in existing law to prohibit disclosure of home addresses of code enforcement officers (note: parking enforcement officers are already covered by law).

SB 101 will include all Code Enforcement Officers under the protections of California Vehicle Code Section 1808.4. It is an important, added layer of safety that will help assure that all Code Enforcement Officers will have their DMV information secured. It bears repeating that there is no difference between the dangers facing Code Enforcement Officers who are currently covered under the law and those Code Enforcement Officers who currently are not currently covered.



Senate Bill 296 The Code Enforcement Officer Safety Standards Bill (Senator Monique Limón)

SB 296 would require cities and counties to establish safety protocols specific to code enforcement officers and specific to the risks posed in the particular jurisdiction.

Currently, many jurisdictions do not have safety programs to train and protect code enforcement officers from threats, assaults, batteries, or worse. Due to recent changes in State and local law, many code enforcement officers have been given the responsibility of dealing with community problems that were traditionally handled by sworn peace officers. These duties include, but are not limited to, the abatement of hard drug houses, illegal cannabis grow operations, red-light district activity enforcement and abatement, and other criminal behaviors. Sworn peace officers are well trained in officer safety and have many legal protections under State and local law. There are requirements already in place that require jurisdictions to establish specific safety protocols for sworn personnel however, none exist for code enforcement officers. This bill would change that.

Why Code Enforcement Officer Safety Matters

Our Safety Matters



CACEO members can support the officer safety bills by contacting CA State Senators. For more information visit. www.CACEO.us/ActNow

Code Enforcement Officer Safety in the News

Man killed in strip mall stabbing was Sac County restaurant inspector, officials say

<https://www.kcra.com/article/man-killed-strip-mall-stabbing-sacramento-county-restaurant-inspector/35269587>

Published by KCRA3 on January 20, 2021

Read about the tragic death of a restaurant inspector who passed away following a stabbing outside a Sacramento County strip mall.



Tracy man accused of attempted homicide of code enforcement officer

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/crime/tracy-man-accused-of-attempted-homicide-of-code-enforcement-officer/ar-BB1cL6H3?ocid=se>

Published by KCRA3 on January 14, 2021

A man was suspected of intentionally driving into a code enforcement officer at El Pescadero Park in Tracy, CA.

Code Enforcement Officer Safety in the News

California Code Officers Seeing Rise In Threats And Attacks Due To COVID Restriction Enforcement

<https://www.ksro.com/2021/01/13/california-code-officers-seeing-rise-in-threats-and-attacks-due-to-covid-restriction-enforcement/>

Published by KSRO on January 13, 2021

CACEO President Darrell Revier gave a radio interview on the increase in threats to code enforcement officers.



Threats towards code enforcement officers up due to COVID-19 restrictions

<https://www.abc10.com/article/news/health/coronavirus/threats-towards-code-enforcement-officers-covid-19-restrictions/103-dda02b47-5555-4757-9afe-952d5c997e5c>

Published by ABC10 on January 11, 2021

CACEO Region One Director Peter Lemos, City of Sacramento, brought attention to the increase in threats towards code enforcement officers tasked with enforcing COVID-19 restrictions.



Homeowner accused in killing of code enforcement officer

<https://apnews.com/article/ga-state-wire-shootings-sc-state-wire-2dedfaa71502fd03fdb73f19f64917d5>

Published by Associated Press on August 21, 2019

A Georgia man was accused of shooting and killing a city code enforcement officer. Augusta, GA code enforcement officer Charles Case was found shot multiple times in the middle of a residential street.



Man who shot Long Beach code enforcement officer in face gets 25 years

<https://www.presstelegram.com/2015/06/16/man-who-shot-long-beach-code-enforcement-officer-in-face-gets-25-years/>

Published in the Press Telegram on June 16, 2015 and updated on September 1, 2017

Read the City News Service's story on a man sentenced to 25 years in prison for an attempted murder charge and two counts of assault on a peace officer with a semiautomatic firearm.



The View From Here: Code Enforcement A Dangerous And Dirty Job

<https://www.capradio.org/100180>

Published by Capitol Public Radio on August 22, 2017

Listen to a Capitol Public Radio environmental reporters perspective as she rides along with a CEO and learns of the types of hazards he encounters..



Defining Cases: A Triple Murder, A 20-Car Pursuit, and A Final Highway Gun Battle

https://www.bakersfield.com/archives/defining-cases-a-triple-murder-a--patrol-car-pursuit/article_73b107df-777b-528d-a8d2-0bcbf0686428.html

Originally published on August 20, 1992 and September 13, 2014 in the Bakersfield Californian. Read the story of the senseless murders of Code Enforcement Officer Cynthia Volpe, her husband, and her mother, by Robert Lezella Courtney, who died in a gun battle with police while wearing a bullet-proof vest.

Code Enforcement Officer Safety Incidents

86

REPORTED TO CACEO SINCE 2015

Including but not limited to:

9

DEATH THREATS

11

PHYSICAL ASSAULTS

10

**OCCURENCES OF WEAPON
BRANDISHING**

17

PHYSICAL THREATS

6

STALKING INCIDENTS

Code Enforcement Officer Safety Incidents

Below are excerpts from some of the many officer safety incidents reported to CACEO

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During the investigation, the transient pursued the code inspector with a machete. The code officer made good on escape.

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Code Officer was punched by a business owner while he was conducting Covid enforcement.

“

A man in his 80's began hitting the Code Officer with a metal pipe. As the Code Officer retreated, the man start spitting at him.

”

After citing a salon owner, a Code Officer was returning to his vehicle when the salon owner hit him with her car intentionally.

“

I received a call from detectives stating they received a creditable threat against my life. The investigation is ongoing.

”

A disgruntled citizen took photos of the personal vehicles of Code Enforcement staff that were parked at the office. The citizen zoomed in on the personal license plates of the Code staff vehicles and posted each photo on Craigslist noting threats that should be made.

“

Suspect stated to one of his friends that he would kill any code enforcement officer that comes to his home. The threat was made while he pointed a loaded shotgun at his friend and stated that he would kill him too.

”

After explaining I was with the County and investigating a complaint of un-permitted grading, the individual told me that I had better leave them alone or I would be buried underneath one of the marijuana plants.

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