



California Association Of Code Enforcement Officers

CACEO

Frequently Asked Questions

Q What exactly is code enforcement?

A Code enforcement is a function of local governments that protects public health and welfare, property values and the environment and reduces blight by gaining compliance with laws and regulations.

Q What types of codes are being enforced?

A The codes being enforced often include use and zoning ordinances, health and housing codes, sign standards and uniform building and fire codes as well as regulations relating to air and water quality, the transportation and storage of hazardous wastes and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Q How do code enforcement programs improve a community?

A Code enforcement programs make communities safer and more attractive by eliminating blight, reducing crime and addressing a vast number of problems, including abandoned and substandard structures, graffiti, unsanitary conditions, scavengers and more.

Q What is the role of code enforcement officers in California?

A Code enforcement officers in California are specially trained public servants whose responsibilities lie between policymaking and the realms of law enforcement and litigation. Their primary duties include the prevention, detection, investigation and enforcement of violations of laws regulating public nuisance; public health, safety and welfare; public works; business activities and consumer protection; building standards; land use; and municipal affairs.

Q Who employs code enforcement officers?

A Code enforcement officers are employed by a city and/or county and work closely with community residents to establish priorities and identify problem properties and code violations.

Q How do code enforcement officers perform their duties?

A Code enforcement officers issue either warnings or notices to persuade voluntary compliance or file court actions. Consequently, they must be fully acquainted with the regulations they enforce as well as the legal limits placed on them.

Q Do code enforcement officers work with other agencies?

A Yes. Code enforcement officers partner with state, county and city agencies to reverse blighted and gang- and crime-infested neighborhoods. The agencies include:

- Police, sheriff and fire departments; probation departments and municipal attorneys; planning, building, housing, public works and community development departments; animal control and health departments; and adult protective services and county mental health departments.

Q What types of challenges do code enforcement officers face?

A Code enforcement officers deal with people who are breaking the law, either knowingly or inadvertently. Since code enforcement actions can escalate into volatile confrontations, code enforcement officers are trained to handle difficult situations and a variety of people, including gang members, drug dealers, homeless and violent or unstable individuals.

Q Is there a role for residents to play in code enforcement in their communities?

A Community residents can assist code enforcement officers by reporting code violations and illegal and unsafe activities in their neighborhoods and by being informed about state and local codes and regulations.

Q As a code enforcement officer, what can CACEO do for me?

A As the unified voice of its members and the only organization advocating exclusively for code enforcement officers in California, CACEO is dedicated to educating the public about code enforcement professionals. CACEO actively promotes code enforcement officers as a viable, necessary and beneficial component of public safety, capable of solving the most difficult problems, improving the quality of life and increasing property values in communities throughout California.

Q How does CACEO contribute to the safety of code enforcement officers?

A CACEO continually works to improve the safety of code enforcement professionals through training, educating elected officials and the public and consistently reporting on, collecting and maintaining data about threats, injuries and deaths.

Q What are the benefits of becoming a member of CACEO?

A CACEO offers its members excellent, cost-effective educational programs, trainings and certification programs as well as networking opportunities. CACEO is dedicated to providing members with the information they need to expertly perform their duties and stay informed about current trends, regulations and safety procedures through quality electronic and print newsletters and a consistently updated Web site.

Q How does CACEO advocate on behalf of its members?

A CACEO provides legislative and regulatory advocacy through bill tracking, developing position letters, formulating legislation, driving public policy and keeping members apprised about happenings in California. CACEO also works diligently to educate elected officials about the importance of code enforcement.

CACEO's Mission

To promote and advance the profession of code enforcement while serving and supporting its members by offering comprehensive education and certification; providing legislative advocacy on issues of importance to the code enforcement profession; and facilitating a network for an exchange of information and technology.