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State of California

DWCNewsline

Division of Workers' Compensation
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State Division of Workers' Compensation to hold free Spanish-language seminar on workers' compensation benefits and laws in San Francisco

Seminar the first in a new program for Bay Area employees

Oakland – The California Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) will conduct a free Spanish-language seminar on workers' compensation benefits and laws in San Francisco on Thursday, Jul. 13. This seminar is the first in a new program for Bay Area workers, which will rotate on a monthly basis between San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose.

“We are now going to have, for the first time, a regular Spanish-language workshop in these communities,” said DWC Acting Administrative Director Carrie Nevans. “This is another big step forward in educating employees who get hurt on the job.”

The seminar is set up for employees that have recently filed a workers' compensation claim with their employer, but any worker can benefit from attending and anyone can attend. The San Francisco workshop will be held:

Thursday, Jul. 13, 2006
6-7 p.m.
The Women's Building
3543 18th Street
San Francisco CA

Following this initial San Francisco workshop, the program will take place on the second Thursday of each month, moving to Oakland in August, San Jose in September, back to San Francisco in October, and so forth. At the seminars, being held at community locations easily accessible to workers,

employees will get information on their right to medical treatment, disability payments, returning to work after an injury and resolving a disagreement over a claim.

“Getting injured at work is hard enough,” said Nevans. “Helping our workforce understand their rights makes it a bit easier for them to navigate the system.”

The DWC conducts English-language seminars for injured workers on a monthly basis at each of its 24 local offices. And last year the division began hosting Spanish-language seminars in different locations around the state, reaching workers in Calexico, Salinas and Los Angeles.

The one-hour program includes a structured presentation followed by a question and answer session, and is conducted by the DWC Information and Assistance Unit. The Information and Assistance Unit plays a major role in resolving disagreements over workers’ compensation benefits and is the state’s main information source for injured workers.

A listing of workshop days, times and locations in English and Spanish can be found on DWC’s Web site at www.dir.ca.gov/dwc. Click on the link that says, “Injured on the job? Need to know your rights?” Injured workers can also call 1-800-736-7401 to find the workshop near them and hear other recorded information. To go directly to workshop locations in English, callers should press 7, then 7 again, then 1 after dialing the 800 number. Spanish-speaking workers may call 1-800-736-7401 and press 2 for details.

The division has also produced posters and flyers in English and Spanish to promote the workshops. Community based organizations and others who’d like to obtain those materials may call 510.286.7076.

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