

Welcome to this edition of *Occupational Health Watch*, an update of recent activities of the California Department of Public Health's Occupational Health Branch (OHB).

Focus on...

Preventing Falls in the Solar Industry – A New ‘Digital Story’ for Workers Memorial Day

Hans Petersen said goodbye to his roommate and left for work to install solar panels. Hans didn't return from work that day. He died on the job when he stepped backwards off an apartment building roof and fell 45 feet.

OHB's California Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) program created a four-minute "digital story" to explain the tragic events that led to Petersen's fatal fall and what could have been done to prevent it. The video honors Petersen's memory and encourages residential solar and construction contractors and workers to work safely and use the right equipment. [Watch the solar video](#)



The [California FACE program](#) has investigated the deaths of three solar installers. Links to complete fatality investigation reports, this video, and bilingual fact sheets can be found on the [FACE solar safety page](#).

Falls are the leading cause of construction fatalities, accounting for one third of on-the-job injury deaths in the construction industry. This video is released as part of a national falls prevention campaign launched in advance of Workers Memorial Day, April 28. Workers Memorial Day events commemorate workers who gave their lives for their work and highlight efforts to prevent workplace deaths.

- See [SoCal COSH's website](http://socalcosh.org) (socalcosh.org) for details on two Los Angeles events: the April 26 Workers Health & Safety Action Summit with US Department of Labor Secretary Hilda Solis and the April 28 Workers Memorial Day Commemoration.
- See the [Campaign to Prevent Falls in Construction website](http://www.stopconstructionfalls.com) (www.stopconstructionfalls.com) for more on the national falls prevention campaign.



We appreciate your feedback! To evaluate the FACE solar video, please [complete a short survey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SolarVideo) (www.surveymonkey.com/s/SolarVideo). You can also [sign-up to receive future FACE fatality reports](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FACESign-up) (www.surveymonkey.com/s/FACESign-up).

OHB is devoted to improving worker health and safety through prevention activities. We gather information on job hazards, work with others to try out new approaches to prevent worker injury and illness, and provide information to assist people in making changes at the workplace. For more information, visit the [OHB website](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/ohb) (www.cdph.ca.gov/ohb).

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