

September 2010

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 Worker Deaths in the Solar Industry

As the use of solar energy continues to grow, an increasing number of workers are exposed to unique hazards that they should be protected from. Over the past 24 months, OHB's [California Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation \(FACE\) program](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/face) [www.cdph.ca.gov/face] investigated the deaths of three solar panel installers. One of the workers died when he was electrocuted by an overhead power line, another fell through a skylight, and the third worker fell off a roof.

Using prevention recommendations from the FACE investigations, OHB published three fact sheets. These fact sheets are written for workers, and can easily be incorporated into safety trainings and posted at the worksite. Links to these materials are below:

- Deadly skylights! Solar energy and warehouse workers killed! ([English, PDF](#)) | [Spanish](#)
- Solar energy technician electrocuted! ([English, PDF](#)) | [Spanish](#)
- Solar panels: Lift them safely! ([English, PDF](#))

Complete investigation reports on these deaths are also available:

- Solar installer dies when he falls 35 feet from a scaffold after being electrocuted ([08CA006, PDF](#))
- Electrical worker dies when he falls through a skylight while installing solar panels on the roof of a warehouse ([09CA003, PDF](#))
- Solar panel installer dies after falling off a roof ([10CA003, PDF](#))

OHB is dedicated 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 [OH B website](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/ohb) (www.cdph.ca.gov/ohb).

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If you would like to receive e-mail notification of future California FACE work-related fatality investigation reports, or would like to evaluate our educational materials, please complete this short form: <http://fs6.formsite.com/BuildSafe/face/>.



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