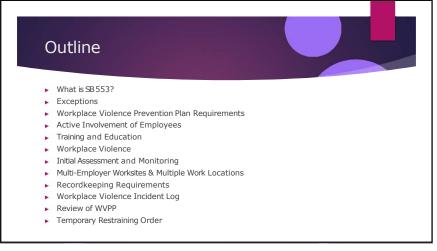




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What is SB 553?
Governor Newson signed SB 553 in September 2023 creating Labor Code Section 6401.9.
Mandates a written Workplace Violence Prevention Plan (WVPP) effective at all times and in all work areas starting July 1, 2024.
Easily accessible to employees, their authorized representatives, and Cal/OSHA representatives.
Specific to the work location/area.
Part of IPP or separate.

### Exceptions

- ▶ Healthcare facilities (Violence Prevention in Health Care standard).
  - Note that Governor Newsom recently signed AB 2975, which amends healthcare violence prevention requirements
- ▶ Employers that comply with Violence Prevention in Health Care standard.
- ▶ Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.
- Law enforcement agencies.
- ▶ Teleworking employees.
- Places of employment with fewer than 10 employees and not accessible to the public.

## Workplace Violence Prevention Plan Requirements

- ▶ Labor Code Section 6401.9 outlines the required elements of the WVPP.
  - ▶ Names or job titles of people responsible for implementation.
  - Procedures:
    - ► Employee involvement.
    - ► Coordination with other employers (if applicable).
    - ▶ Compliance.
    - ▶ Employee Communication.

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## Workplace Violence Prevention Plan Requirements (continued)

- ▶ Labor Code Section 6401.9 outlines the required elements of the WVPP.
  - Procedures:
    - Response to emergencies.
    - Training.
    - Hazard correction.
    - Post-incident response and investigation.
    - Review of WVPP effectiveness.
    - Any other procedure necessary for employee health and safety as required by the Division and Standards Board.

### Active Involvement of Employees

- ▶ Obtaining active involvement of employees can be tricky.
- ▶ Required to collaborate with employees in:
  - Development.
  - Design and implementation.
  - ▶ Hazard identification, evaluation, and correction.
- Strategies:
  - Company meeting
  - Creating a task force
  - Suggestion form/box
  - ▶ Electronic or physical distribution
- ▶ DOCUMENT YOUR EFFORTS.

## Training and Education

- ► Training must be appropriate to employee's educational level, literacy, and language.
- ▶ Training must occur:
  - First established;
  - Annually;
  - ▶ New or previously unrecognized hazard has been identified; and
- Changes to the plan.
- Must be interactive.
  - Allow for questions and answers.
- ▶ Only for California employees.
- ▶ Completed by July 1, 2024.

### Training and Education (continued)

- ▶ Training shall include the following topics:
  - How to obtain a copy.
  - ▶ How to participate in development and implementation.
  - Definitions and requirements.
  - Reporting incidents or concerns (no retaliation).
  - Job-specific hazards.
  - ▶ How to seek assistance to prevent or respond to violence.
  - Strategies to avoid physical harm.
  - ▶ Violent Incident Log and how to obtain copies.

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### Workplace Violence

- ▶ Workplace violence means any act of violence or threat of violence that occurs in a place of employment.
  - ▶ Threat or use of physical force.
    - ▶ Does not need to lead to injury, psychological trauma, or stress.
  - A threat or use of a firearm or other dangerous weapon.
  - ▶ Includes animal attacks
- ▶ Does not include lawful acts of self-defense or defense of others.

### Workplace Violence (continued)

- ▶ Four types of workplace violence (one or more can apply):
  - Type I: workplace violence committed by someone who has no legitimate business at the worksite.
  - Type II: workplace violence directed at employees by customers, clients, patients, students, inmates, visitors.
  - ► Type II: workplace violence committed against an employee by a current or former employee
  - Type IV: workplace violence committed by a non-employee who has a personal relationship with an employee.

### Initial Assessment & Monitoring

- Must perform an initial assessment of the workplace.
- Assessments should identify workplace violence risk factors that are specific to each job and worksite.
- Monitoring to identify changes to the worksite.
- Monitoring new positions and new locations.
  - ▶ New/different threats?

### Multi-Employer Worksites

- Required to coordinate implementation of WVPP with other employers (if applicable).
  - ▶ Coordination with the property owner/manager and other employers in the building.
  - Coordination with staffing agencies.
  - Construction: Coordination with the site owner, general contractor, and any subcontractors.
- ▶ Joint collaboration includes:

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- ▶ Which employees are involved in plan development;
- ▶ Which employers are responsible for training specific employees;
- ▶ Which employer investigates reports of workplace violence hazards or concerns; and
- ▶ Which employer maintains the incident log.

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### Multiple Work Locations

- Ensure that the WVPP is specific to the hazards and corrective measures for each location.
- ▶ Must include all worksites that employees that travel to.
  - Delivery drivers
  - Mail couriers
  - Salespersons

### Recordkeeping

- Records of hazard identification, evaluation, and correction: Created and maintained for a minimum of 5 years.
- ▶ Training records: Created and maintained for a minimum of 1 year.
- ▶ Violent incident logs: Maintained for a minimum of 5 years.
- Records of workplace violence incident investigations: Maintained for a minimum of 5 years.
- ► Employees and their authorized representatives have the right to receive records listed above within 15 calendar days of a request.

# Necord all incidents in the violent Incident log. Information recorded should come from: The employees who experienced the workplace violence; From witnessed; and From investigation findings. Omit any element of personal identifying information such as: Name Address Email address Phone number Social security number

Workplace Violent Incident Log (continued)

- ▶ Information recorded in the log shall include the following:
  - Date, time, and location of violent incident.
  - ► Workplace violence type(s)(Type I-Type IV).
  - ▶ Description of incident.
  - Classification of who committed violence.
  - ▶ Classification of circumstances at the time of the incident.
  - · Classification of where the incident occurred.
  - Type of incident.

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- ▶ Consequences of the incident.
- ▶ Information of person completing the log (name, job title, and date completed).

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# Review of WVPP: Annually; When deficiencies are observed or becomes apparent; and After each incident of workplace violence Obtain active involvement of employees and their representatives. No guidance on what reviewing the effectiveness of the plan entails. Review of violent incident log.

Beginning January 1, 2025, collective bargaining representatives (in addition to employers) may seek a temporary restraining order and an order after hearing on behalf of the employees.
 Requires the employer or collective bargaining representative to provide the employees the opportunity to decline to be named in the temporary restraining order prior to filing the petition.

**Temporary Restraining Orders** 

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