

# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

Craft-Maintenance Division State of California Unit 12  
Locals 3, 39 & 501, AFL-CIO

## **IUOE Unit 12 Files CalOSHA Complaint Against Caltrans Regarding Homeless Encampment Cleanups – November 7, 2018**

On November 6, 2018, IUOE Unit 12 filed a CalOSHA complaint against Caltrans for jeopardizing the health and safety of our Unit 12 members in the Placerville and Kyburz Highway 50 maintenance areas.

The incidents happened over the course of two days at a homeless-encampment cleanup located under the Vietnam Veterans Bridge on Highway 50 in Placerville.

The Caltrans hazmat coordinator was not present. The District Landscape Specialist was not present. None of the workers were properly trained in any aspect of proper protocol for the cleanup prior to performing the duty of cleaning up this illegal encampment. Vaccines were not made available to the workers prior to the cleanup. Multiple homeless people were present in and around the camp during the cleanup. Several workers came into direct skin contact with bio-hazard materials and unknown toxic chemical substances. One individual was splashed with human excrement waste that contacted the unprotected skin on both forearms. Nothing on the site was disinfected prior to the cleanup. Lunch breaks were taken on site in the illegal encampment area. The equipment used at the cleanup was not disinfected after its use those two days. One homeless person got angry and threw his bicycle onto the hood of a Caltrans truck.

IUOE Unit 12 has filed several grievances already against Caltrans for similar violations, and yet Caltrans continues to claim that they are doing nothing wrong. We have elevated one of the grievances to arbitration for a third party hearing. In the meantime we are asking CalOSHA to investigate this matter and cite Caltrans for multiple Blood Borne Pathogen violations.

If you are a Caltrans member and you think that you are being asked to perform unsafe work practices, please contact your local IUOE union representative immediately.

**UNION STRONG!**

Steve Crouch  
Director of Public Employees