



# Washington State Department of Labor & Industries

## Worker safety for all

Every worker in Washington is entitled to feel safe, secure, and free from injuries or virus transmission during a normal workday. Labor & Industries (L&I) ensures that employers provide a safe workplace and holds them accountable.

Every workplace in Washington is supposed to be safe whether it's a factory, grocery store, restaurant, or farm. Danny Aguilera and Susana Rodriguez, Outreach Coordinators for L&I, recently visited farms in the state to make sure workers knew of their rights and the help that L&I can provide.

"We spent the last several weeks talking with workers at farms," said Aguilera. "Many of the workers were limited English speakers. We handed out flyers and talked over what they could do if they see a safety hazard or if they're injured on the job."



*Outreach Coordinator Susana Rodriguez hands out flyers at a Brewster farm.*

Aguilera talked with a worker at an eastern Washington farm who had been through an injury and was grateful for the services and compensation that L&I provided him. "He was very familiar with the injury claim process and was even helping other workers understand and navigate through the post-injury forms and processes."

Remember, you have a right as a Washington worker to a safe work environment. If you see a hazard that could cause injuries or a failure to comply with COVID-19 protocols, speak up. Your

employer must eliminate the hazard. If you're afraid to speak to your employer, then you can call L&I. Call 800-4BeSafe to report the problem. You can even remain anonymous if you wish.



*Outreach Coordinator Rodriguez speaks to workers about benefits they're entitled to.*

If you have been injured on the job, be sure you know your rights. First get medical help. Then, notify your employer. Worker's compensation pays for medical care directly related to your injury. If you are unable to work following your injury, you may be eligible for a portion of your lost wages. Most important, L&I or your self-insured employer may help coordinate a safe and timely return to work. Many falls, cuts, and sprains can become serious injuries if they aren't treated. Get first aid at your workplace; all employers in Washington are required to provide a first-aid kit. If further treatment is necessary, go to the emergency room or health-care provider of your choice and tell them you were injured at work.