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Workplace Safety, Injuries and Workers' Comp for Security Officers

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Security officers injured on the job in California are generally entitled to workers' compensation, and employers must comply with Cal/OSHA safety rules, including the SB 553 workplace violence prevention plan requirements that took effect in 2024.

Workers' compensation basics

California requires nearly all employers to carry workers' compensation insurance covering job-related injuries, including assaults or injuries sustained by a guard during a shift.

An injured officer should report the injury promptly and complete a claim form, which the employer is required to provide.

Cal/OSHA also investigates serious workplace injuries and can cite employers for safety violations.

Key safety obligations

Requirement	Who it applies to	Source
Workplace violence prevention plan	Most California employers	SB 553 / Labor Code § 6401.9
Injury and illness prevention program	Most California employers	Cal/OSHA Title 8
Serious injury reporting	Employers, within 8 hours	Cal/OSHA

Steps after an on-duty injury

- Report the injury to a supervisor as soon as possible
- Request and complete the workers' compensation claim form
- Seek medical treatment through the employer's designated network if applicable
- Keep copies of all forms and medical records

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representation.

For questions about a specific injury or claim, consult a licensed California attorney or contact the Department of Industrial Relations.

Quick answers

Am I covered by workers' comp if I'm assaulted on post?

Generally yes, injuries arising out of and in the course of employment are typically covered.

What is a workplace violence prevention plan?

It is a written plan required under SB 553 describing how an employer identifies and responds to workplace violence risks.

Can I be retaliated against for reporting an injury?

Retaliation for filing a workers' compensation claim is generally prohibited under California law.

Who investigates serious workplace injuries?

Cal/OSHA, a division of the Department of Industrial Relations, investigates serious injuries and safety violations.

Primary sources — read the official text

Workers' compensation in California	California Department of Industrial Relations	https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/dwc_home_page.htm
Cal/OSHA	California Department of Industrial Relations	https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/
Workplace violence prevention (SB 553)	California Department of Industrial Relations	https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/workplace-violence-prevention.html
Labor Code § 6401.9	California Legislative Information	https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=6401.9.&lawCode=LAB

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