

## Code Enforcement Officer Safety Foundation



# OFFICER SAFETY NEWSLETTER



O'FALLON, MO - COSS CERTIFIED TEAM



## Welcome

Winter 2022 - We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all of you who support our non-profit Foundation! What began as a group of likeminded individuals who said we needed a national voice, is now that very thing. We appreciate the state associations that saw us as a resource and a friend, not competition. We thank ICC for their continued support of the Foundation and the safety of Code Professionals. We hope you all have a safe and joyful 2022!

### Our Mission Statement:

"The Code Enforcement Officer Safety Foundation exists to promote best practices for the safety of Code Enforcement Officers throughout the United States; to provide a resource for officers; report incidents; provide up-to-date training and to encourage a high standard of professionalism within our chosen profession."

### Sponsors



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### WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE?

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## CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SAFETY FOUNDATION

[www.CodeOfficerSafety.org](http://www.CodeOfficerSafety.org)

# CODE OFFICIAL SAFETY SPECIALIST (COSS)

The National Standard on Code Official Safety - 15 hours of virtual instruction on Officer Safety topics where participants get certified.



### OPTION 1 LIVE WEBINAR

Earn your COSS designation by watching all 5 courses live with our instructor. You will have a chance to ask questions, receive the PDF workbooks, and get certified. Classes are every two weeks from January to early March 2022.

Jan 12, Jan 26, Feb 9, Feb 23, Mar 9

### OPTION 2 ON DEMAND

Watch the recorded five courses on your own time within a 30 day period. You will have access to all the workbooks and exams to get certified. On demand begins December 1st and you can sign-up anytime to get certified.

Starts December 1st



#### Topics that Matter

- Tactical Mindset
- Fear Management
- Verbal De-escalation
- Three Phases of a Contact
- Surviving a Violent Encounter



#### Get Credit

Our classes count for ICC CEU's and several state associations also recognize our classes for credit. Total of 15 hours means 1.5 CEU's for ICC.



#### Certification

Don't just go to a training where they talk on the surface. Get in-depth, critical, and expert training by vetted instructors. The COSS certification is one to be proud of!

**DISCOUNTED  
AT ONLY \$250**



PREFERRED  
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PROVIDER

[www.codeofficersafety.org/certification](http://www.codeofficersafety.org/certification)

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# The Value of Partnership

The Code Enforcement Officer Safety Foundation has made many new partnerships across the country in this first year as a non-profit charity. I want to thank these partners for their immediate support of the Foundation. **We have built great relationships and friendships, unifying the profession on a national level.** This is why the International Code Council (ICC) partnered with us and donated to our mission months into our first year.

Shockingly, it is not always easy to create these partnerships. The Board of Directors, which is comprised of professionals from across the country, thought this would be a no-brainer to partner with a non-profit charity like CEOSF that focuses on the safety of inspectors. Sadly, politics gets in the way. Politics of those who think the term "officer safety" is prohibited or that it encourages inspectors to become SWAT operators, gets in the way of a logical discussion of our mission. Politics of those who see the Foundation as competition to education revenues or costing money to their organization.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wholeheartedly denounce these claims and welcome EVERY opportunity to discuss the true mission of our Foundation. Unlike consultants and training providers who make a profit selling seats at their classes, we are purely focused on providing resources to keep our colleagues safe. This includes free resources on the website, quality training, and donating money we have raised back into the profession by providing scholarships and body armor. We are not here to compete with any entity, but we want seek friendships as we work together to keep inspectors safe. **"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."** – Henry Ford.

Not only do we want to be a national database for statistics from every state, but we hope to help coordinate legislative efforts across the country to promote the safety of all inspectors doing their job. We also provide every association or chapter the chance to send one of their members through each of our COSS classes for FREE! How cool is that to send multiple members in your association or chapter through a free safety course each year? **Whats the cost or catch? None.** I can't put it simpler than that. The Foundation does not charge their partners a single dollar for being partners. CEOSF just looks for ways to collaborate together and share CEOSF information to the membership.

**I again want to thank our list of state associations that partnered with us to show their support of officer safety and for their help focusing on quality officer safety training from the national standard - CEOSF.** We are also donating body armor to those who are in need from around the country. These are officers and inspectors in your membership that seek help from CEOSF. We look forward to new partnerships!

CEOSF is thrilled to see new legislation on officer safety and groups out there promoting officer safety training. This was a major goal of CEOSF when it started in 2020. Create a national discussion on officer safety and bring it out of the shadows of politics. While we do not not endorse all officer safety training that is on the market, we are excited to see that interest is growing. **Twenty years ago, or 10 years ago, or even 3 years ago - did you see this level of awareness, training, and legislation on officer safety?**

Our Founding Vice President Timothy Sun had a passion to change the direction of the old discussion. He traveled across the country to visit family members of murdered Code Enforcement Officers to tell the family that **WE WILL NOT FORGET.** His heart is the seed that grew this Foundation into what it is today. The Board of Directors made up of Building Officials, Managers, Supervisors, and Officers from across the country support the mission and share this passion.

**We are here for you,**  
Justin Edson, CCEA, COSS  
President - Board of Directors



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## "Request A Vest" Program Recipients

As part of CEOSF's mission, the Board of Directors is committed to donating body armor (whether external or concealed) to Code Officials across the country that need them. We are excited to have donated 5 vests already! Building and Code inspectors from PA, TX, FL, IL, and others have received vests.



"The vest has been working out wonderfully! It fits well and all of the lettering is correct and looking sharp. Thank you again for selecting me for the donation! "

"Thank you very much for the opportunity to wear this vest with pride! With the way things are going this day and time I feel like ballistic vests are a must have tool in this industry. I am very grateful and my wife and children are as well!"



"The vest fits great and I am thankful for the protection you guys have presented me. Thank you from [my] Family!"



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# Welcome Our New Representatives!



## **JEREMY CLEARY - REGION 8**

Jeremy will represent the states of GA, NC, SC, and TN. He is a Code Enforcement Officer in North Carolina. He has experience in law enforcement, public works, and U.S. Navy Security Forces. Jeremy is a part of our inaugural COSS class!

When asked why he supports CEOSF, he stated "CEOSF is doing great work to spread the word on the need for personal safety in the workplace and beyond. CEOSF is destined to do great things to bring about much needed education, training, & policy changes that will help all of us be able to perform our duties safely & effectively."



## **CHEYNNE SANDERSON - REGION 1**

Cheyenne will represent the states of CA, NV, and HI. He is a Code Enforcement Officer II in California. He has experience in law enforcement and is a veteran of the U.S. Army.

"I support CEOSF because I'm a advocate for education, mindset training, and deterring aggression/violence against Code Enforcement Officers. CEOSF provides a platform and resources to help officers avoid violent encounters. Also, how to survive a violent action taken against them. Every agency is unique with how code officer safety is managed, but to have an organization like CEOSF to assist agencies and officers build a foundation for better safety practices, then I' am all in."



## **JEREMY KOVINCHICK - INTERIM SECRETARY/TREASURER**

The Board of Directors unanimously appointed Jeremy to our vacant Board seat as the Interim Secretary/Treasurer. Jeremy had previously served as a Regional Representative for Region 11 and is a Code Enforcement Officer in Colorado.

"The Board is excited to appoint Jeremy to the vacant seat. He has been a great asset to the Foundation and building relationships with our counterparts. We look forward to further collaboration," said CEOSF President Edson.

## Interested in Volunteering?

Are you interested in volunteering with the Foundation? We are still looking for Regional Representatives and others who are passionate about moving this topic forward. No matter your skill set, reach out to us to inquire. Commitment is minimal in terms of time and you get to be a part of a growing non-profit Foundation. Check out our Volunteer page at [www.codeofficersafety.org/volunteers](http://www.codeofficersafety.org/volunteers) and email us at [info@codeofficersafety.org](mailto:info@codeofficersafety.org)

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# Disproportionately at Risk

by Scott Kirshner, M.Ed., COSCI, SAS-AP®

A day like any other day...until it wasn't.



What insight would Dennis Catanyag, Charles Case, Michael Tripus, Jill Robinson or any of the other eleven code professionals who have been killed in the line of duty provide on the topic of officer safety? When each of these individuals woke up on the day of their murder they had no idea it would be their last day. They had no idea of the horror they would face. I am confident that each one would provide valuable insight regarding the importance of meaningful officer safety standards.

On October 7, 2021, California approved Senate Bill 296 which requires safety standards and added Section 829.7 to the California Penal Code. There is important text in this law that specifically identifies risks.

Section 1 states:

**“The Legislature finds and declares that code enforcement officers are disproportionately at risk for threat, assault, injury, and even homicide due to the nature of their obligations.”**

Section 1 is specifically referring to the potential for acts of violence being perpetuated on code enforcement officers. It even states how CEOs are disproportionately at risk.

Section 2 states:

**“Each local jurisdiction that employs code enforcement officers shall develop code enforcement officer safety standards appropriate for the code enforcement officers employed in their jurisdiction.”**

## JURISDICTION IS NOT THE FOCUS

The legislation does not mandate specific safety standards. Each department has discretion in determining what safety standards are appropriate. When reading Section 2 department leadership may feel tempted to overly focus on the word “jurisdiction” believing their jurisdiction is a factor that mitigates the need for robust safety standards. The result might be the implementation of safety standards that fail to train officers in needed safety skills. No jurisdiction is protected by an imaginary jurisdictional safety bubble. Violence does not care about jurisdiction, job title, or department name. Jurisdiction does not guarantee safety.

## DISPROPORTIONATELY AT RISK

Departments must avoid using jurisdiction as an excuse not to implement meaningful safety standards considering that the law clearly finds and declares how code enforcement officers are disproportionately at risk. There is no mention of jurisdiction relating to risk. Any “safety standard” that fails to provide training that addresses all legislatively identified risks including threats, assault, injury, and homicide can potentially leave the department open to liability based on the foreseeability of such risks. More importantly it means that officers are not properly trained for the identified risks. Focus on risks, not jurisdiction. Departments have an opportunity to make substantive changes by implementing meaningful safety standards pertaining to officer safety training, equipment, and policies.

## DEPARTMENT CONCERNS

For those in leadership and management positions who have concerns and hesitation about implementing safety standards the following points are important:

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# Disproportionately at Risk - Continued

- Safety standards that incorporate officer safety training and equipment is NOT about turning code enforcement officers into police officers.
- Issuing safety equipment does not encourage code enforcement officers to act inappropriately because of the presence of safety tools.
- Issuing safety equipment does not encourage citizens to verbally abuse or violently attack a CEO. Citizens who act out against a code enforcement officer who has safety equipment would act out if the officer did not have safety equipment.
- Providing officer safety training and equipment is NOT about advocating that firearms be issued to CEO's.

Code enforcement officers can perform their job duties in a manner that is professional, polite, and respect while being safe. Being a professional, customer oriented code enforcement officer is not mutually exclusive with receiving safety training or equipment.

## **PREPARE YOUR STATEMENT** – A message to department leaders.

Department leaders who choose not to implement meaningful safety standards should prepare a statement for the time when they may have to inform a spouse or family member of a code enforcement officer that their loved one is never coming home because he was killed in the line of duty. When you have to tell that spouse or family member that their loved one is never coming home remember that day was like any other day...until it wasn't. The difference is you will get to go home...

This is a difficult conversation under any circumstances but it is made exponentially worse with the realization you failed to provide your staff with needed safety training and equipment. It is a weight you will carry for the rest of your life. It is my hope that you never need to use that statement or carry such a burden. It will change you. And every night when you lay your head on your pillow you will think about the officer you lost and the decisions you made. But you won't be alone for the spouse, children, and family members of that officer will share in the pain when their head hits the pillow.

In my decades of studying violence I understand that there is no guarantee of the outcome when one is faced with violence. I also understand the value of preparation. When it comes to the implementation of safety standards you have choices to make. I implore you to make the right decisions for your staff, their families, and yourself.

As code enforcement officers get ready for their day remember that it will start like any other day. How will it end...

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## **About the Author**

*Scott Kirshner, M.Ed., COSCI, SAS-AP® has been a Parole Administrator, Supervisory Probation Officer, and a Corrections Officer. He has extensive experience as an officer survival trainer and has been a lead defensive tactics instructor, firearms instructor, and use of force instructor. He is the author of Officer Survival for Code Enforcement Officers. Mr. Kirshner is the owner and Lead Instructor of Dedicated Threat Solutions, LLC. He can be reached at: [info@dedicatedthreatsolutions.com](mailto:info@dedicatedthreatsolutions.com) or to learn more visit: [www.dedicatedthreatsolutions.com](http://www.dedicatedthreatsolutions.com)*

# Documents Available From CEOSF

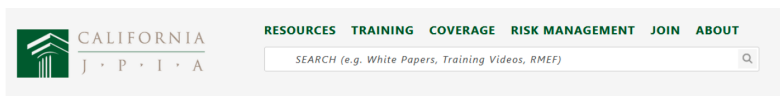
**Officer Safety Policies & Procedure Manual (78-pages)** – Best document on the market to comply with California SB 296. Free for any COSS participant upon request or for \$99 on our website. [CLICK HERE](#)

<b>OFFICER SAFETY POLICY &amp; PROCEDURE MANUAL</b>	Table of Contents	
	Policy and Procedure Preface	4
[INSERT LOGO]	SECTION 100 – Professional Conduct	7
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**General Code Enforcement SOP Manuals** – FREE Word documents you can edit and use for your agency. Free upon request via email - [info@codeofficersafety.org](mailto:info@codeofficersafety.org).

**SB 296 Assessment Memo** – FREE document to download and edit for your agency. [CLICK HERE](#)

**California JPIA Risk Management Article** – A great article by a leading government Insurance Authority about the risks for Code Enforcement Officers. [CLICK HERE](#)



## Risk Solutions

### Code Enforcement Officer Safety: A Paramount Concern

*By Melaina Francis, Risk Manager*

When considering agency exposures those of code enforcement officers should not be overlooked. Threats, attacks, and even deaths have occurred while code enforcement officers were performing their duties. California JPIA members providing code enforcement services have reported occupational injuries impacting employees in the form of assaults. Over the last ten years, these injuries ranged from physical attacks by transients to being threatened with a

**CEOSF "Just Walk Away" Article (PDF)** – Our Lead Instructor dives into this idea of always being able to walk away and he points out the fallacies. [CLICK HERE](#)

**CEOSF "Officer Safety Letter"** - Letter for Risk Management. [CLICK HERE](#)

**Officer Safety Incident Alert Form** – FREE template for agencies to log incidents internally. [CLICK HERE](#)

# Code Official Safety Specialist (COSS) Reviews

Our list of certified Code Official Safety Specialists (COSS) continues to grow with our awesome on-demand virtual classroom. We wanted to share some feedback we have received from participants:

"I paid for all five classes on my own. I am concerned about my safety. I'm so happy I did this. This has been well worth the money and then some. Thankyou for making this affordable and by far the best resource I have had. Once I complete all 5 classes I plan on sharing this with my director . Thanks again I appreciate all you are doing for the Code Enforcement Community. Great information I will be using everyday. After every class I'm amazed at all the new things I've learned. Also happy to know that some of the things I do for my safety on my own are good and what you say to do." - **Female Code Enforcement Officer, Iowa (COSS)**

"This December I purchased the CEOSF Code Official Safety Specialist course. Hey, it is another acronym I could add to my signature line and 007 was already taken. Seriously, officer safety is a part of my core. I am an honorably retired L.A.P.D. Sergeant and I have lost an academy classmate to a violent encounter, and I have also lost a two patrol partners, as well as many more L.A.P.D. coworkers. I have survived the North Hollywood bank robbery shootout, the Rodney King riots, the Northridge Earthquake and countless other violent encounters with both armed and unarmed suspects. In addition to my law enforcement career, I also owned my own California B.S.I.S. licensed Private Patrol Operator and California and Texas licensed Private Investigator businesses. Please take no offense when I say my sixteen-year-old daughter knows more tactics than I have ever received in a college level code enforcement class. She is BadAss and competitively shoots clays. So, I skeptically walked (clicked my way) into the classroom, thinking "Sure, let's see what they will bring to the table." (Insert sarcastic eye roll) I was both shocked and pleasantly surprised at the quality and relevance of this training module. One thing I repeatedly stress to new code officers is how their very first encounter with a subject may be the very last of theirs. We weren't aware how their children left them alone to fend for themselves, how their Social Security doesn't cover home maintenance let alone their other expenses, and hoe they've exhausted their reverse mortgage and the lender just foreclosed on them. We did our due diligence and know they are a widower with some simple maintenance needs and we walk up to offer them some services available to assist them but when we knock on his door, a shotgun blast takes us out. Farfetched? To the contrary, this is a very common scenario. Take this class! Your loved ones need you." **LAPD Sgt. (ret.) Chris Mandala COSS, CCEO, CFI, CFE**



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Earn your COSS designation and ICC CEU's! Attend our live webinar series for a total of 15 hours of instruction.

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- Tactical Mindset 1/12
- Fear Management 1/26
- Verbal De-escalation 2/9
- Three Phases of a Contact 2/23
- Surviving a Violent Encounter 3/9

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ICC PREFERRED EDUCATION PROVIDER

"For those "Code Enforcement Officers", a blanket term that covers any one whose job is to enforce any codes from health inspectors to property maintenance inspectors and everyone in between, COSS training is a must. It is presented in five three hour segments. Each one builds on the previous one. It is not death by PowerPoint. Mr. Kirshner presents the classes in a manner that emphasizes the practical application of the subject matter. Aside from the wealth of information gained from the class. The information costs nothing to implement. It creates a shift in the mental process in how we approach our jobs. And although it is possible to take only certain segments of the training, I would encourage everyone to take the entire five classes to achieve the full benefit of the training." **Code Enforcement Officer, West Virginia (BCO,CFM,COSS)**

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# Understanding The Sovereign Citizen Threat (Pt. 5)

**by Kirk Palmer, Master Code Officer (GA), COSCI**

You're serving as a Code Enforcement Officer in your local jurisdiction. You try to treat everyone in a fair and respectable manner; however, one day you encounter a person who claims to be a Sovereign Citizen. Ultimately, you end up summoning this individual to court because he refuses to comply with a local code. During court, this individual draws the Judge's ire due to his behavior. He is ultimately fined and begrudgingly comes into compliance... It's, over, right? About a year later, interest rates have dropped, and you want to refinance your house. You contact a mortgage lender and begin the process. A couple of weeks into the process the lawyer handling the title search notifies you there's a lien on your property. Who put a lien on my property you ask? The lawyer gives you a name, but you have no clue who it is... And, to add more mystery, the lien is for a paltry \$20... You're puzzled; you're looking for answers, so you put the name into your code violation database and get a match... It's the Sovereign Citizen you issued a summons to a year ago... You've become the victim of "Paper Terrorism". Now, your refi could be delayed months, while the lawyer is sorting through this mess... Think it cannot happen? Think again... A similar scenario happened to a Deputy Sheriff in a jurisdiction next to mine four years ago. It was over a \$15 Seatbelt citation...

While Sovereign Citizen violence against officials is increasing, you're more likely to be the victim of "Paper Terrorism" by a Sovereign Citizen than violent assault. Paper Terrorism is the use of false liens, frivolous lawsuits, bogus letters of credit, and other ungrounded legal documents to harass others, especially government officials. Sovereigns often use IRS forms to increase a person's tax liability and trigger an IRS audit. Never, ever underestimate their ruthlessness.

So how does one defend against these sovereign tactics? It's simple, you must be vigilant against what amounts to identity theft. An excellent idea is to sign up with an ID theft company to monitor your affairs. Their fees are cheap, compared to attorney fees. Even in the case of bogus claims, the only way to remedy them is to go through the courts. Since certain Sovereign Groups (RuSA in particular) engage in surveillance against government officials, be cognizant of things going on in your neighborhood. Unfamiliar vehicles driving through, or parking along the street for extended periods of time, could indicate Sovereign surveillance. The following is a bullet list of commonsense things to do to protect yourself:

- Never give out your Social Security number or Date of Birth indiscriminately.
- Shred all documents that contain personal information before putting them in the trash. (Sovereign citizens, especially RuSA members, have sifted through people's trash in the past to get personal information to wreak havoc.)
- Take advantage of your free yearly credit report from the three major bureaus. Check them for any suspicious entries. If you sign up with an ID Theft Company, they'll do this for you.
- Once a year, check the deed office or clerk of courts, and see if your name appears on any filings.
- If you receive a letter, via certified mail, stating "First Notice and Demand for Settlement" notify your supervisor, law enforcement and your attorney immediately. This correspondence is the first step for a sovereign citizen to file a claim or place a lien against your property.

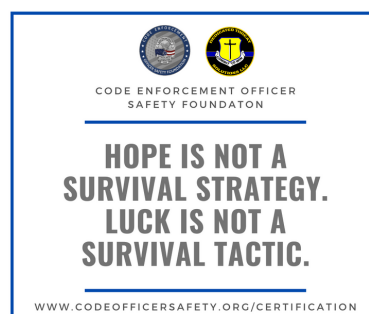
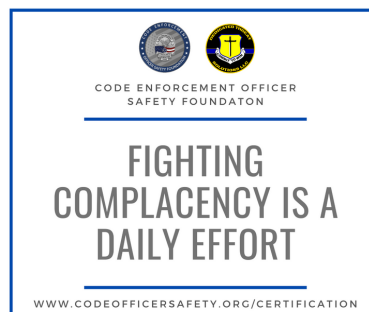
In summary, if you receive any correspondences from a person identifying themselves as a "Sovereign Citizen", assume you will be sued or have lien placed on your property. It is imperative that you contact law enforcement and your attorney immediately. Remember: Even in cases of bogus claims, the only way to remedy them is to go through the courts. Next time, I'll begin a new series on 1st Amendment Auditors... Until then, stay alert and don't get hurt.

## About the Author

*Kirk Palmer, COSCI is a Master Code Officer (GA) with 26 years of public safety experience. He is currently the Code Compliance Supervisor for Forsyth County, Georgia. In addition, he is an Officer Safety Instructor for the Georgia Association of Code Enforcement Officials (GACE).*

# Officer Safety Posters

CEOSF received a unique, but amazing request from an industry professional. They asked if we had any printouts with phrases on them to hang around the office. We did not, however, this sparked our interest. In collaboration with our lead instructor and the COSS presentations, we developed an initial group of 13 printouts (8.5"x11" ea.) that are FREE to download and print from our website: [www.CodeOfficerSafety.org/materials](http://www.CodeOfficerSafety.org/materials)



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# California's Newly Enacted Law Requiring Code Enforcement Safety Standards—Model For Other Jurisdictions Nationally

## by Valerie D. Escalante Troesh, J.D. & L.L.M.

On October 7, 2021, California's Governor signed into law Senate Bill 296 requiring each local jurisdiction that employs code enforcement officers to develop safety standards appropriate for the code enforcement officers employed in their jurisdiction.

Since then, many local jurisdictions in the State have been developing, augmenting, and/or refining their code enforcement officer safety standards in anticipation of the January 1, 2022 effective date. This legislation is groundbreaking in the State and a model for other jurisdictions across the nation looking to adopt legislation expressly protecting local code enforcement teams (or a model for individuals or code enforcement interest groups in other jurisdictions to push for such legislation).

The text of the new law is key—short, simple, and offering local jurisdictions the discretion needed to create safety standards that meet their specific needs and abilities. Adding a new section to California's Penal Code—Section 829.7—the new law reads: ***Each local jurisdiction that employs code enforcement officers shall develop code enforcement officer safety standards appropriate for the code enforcement officers employed in their jurisdiction.*** This newly added section falls within Chapter 4.2, Title 3, Part 2 of the California Penal Code covering additional provisions regarding criminal procedure related to code enforcement officers.

Its neighboring section in Chapter 4.2, Section 829.5, defines a “code enforcement officer.” This definition section, which was adopted years ago, offers a clear and broad definition of who is considered a code enforcement officer in the State: “any person who is not described in Chapter 4.5 [relating to Peace Officers in the State] ... and who is employed by any governmental subdivision, public or quasi-public corporation, public agency, public service corporation, any town, city, county, or municipal corporation, whether incorporated or chartered, who has enforcement authority for health, safety, and welfare requirements, whose duties include enforcement of any statute, rule, regulation, or standard, and who is authorized to issue citations, or file formal complaints” and “any person who is employed by the Department of Housing and Community Development who has enforcement authority for health, safety, and welfare requirements pursuant to” various provisions under the California Health and Safety Code.

The new safety standard law does not proscribe the safety standards that must be used, rather it leaves that up to each local jurisdiction. As code enforcement officers across California's numerous local jurisdictions are faced with different safety threats and as each public agency may have different approaches to safety standards for their jurisdiction, this new law accounts for this diversity in hazards and processes.

Consider: Code enforcement officers may be charged with dealing with one or more of the following: property maintenance; substandard housing; bed bug and rodent infestations; mold and lead abatement; illegal cannabis grows; and environmental hazards and discharges, among other issues. Code enforcement officers may deal with residential, commercial, industrial, and/or other types of land uses, including vacant lands. They may also deal with hostile violators—ranging from verbal threats to physical attacks—compliant violators, or any mix between. Code enforcement officers can serve a wide range of jurisdictional size and nature, e.g., rural, suburban, big city. Code enforcement officers may have a range of training and resources available. Penal Code section 829.7's delegation of developing specific standards to local jurisdictions allows each local jurisdictions' unique circumstances dictate what is developed—a tailored approach.

California's new safety standards law is a huge accomplishment in the State in protecting code enforcement officers. For other jurisdictions across the nation without such law in the books, California Penal Code section 829.7 can serve as a great model to get started.

*This article is not intended to provide legal advice. It is provided for informational purposes only.*

### About the Author

Valerie D. Escalante Troesh is a specialized code enforcement attorney and partner with Silver & Wright Law LLP in California. She has extensive experience litigating in California and Federal courts and has represented public agencies in matters ranging from affirmative nuisance abatement actions, receiverships, to defensive suits when code and law enforcement officers are challenged in their duties on the field. Valerie has also helped public agencies obtain WVROs in California State Court to protect employees from threats of violence in the workplace. She is also the Legal Director of Code Enforcement Officer Safety Foundation. The author can be reached at: [VEscalanteTroesh@SilverWrightLaw.com](mailto:VEscalanteTroesh@SilverWrightLaw.com).

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# Recent Incidents

**November 16th (TX)** - As I drove passed a residence I saw an individual standing in his yard pumping up a pellet gun. As I passed he stepped forward and pointed the gun at me and remained that way for several seconds.

**October 28th (TX)** - An Austin Code Department visit off Pinkney Lane in southwest Austin turned violent Wednesday when a man opened fire, but code department officials said there wasn't a history of aggression or violence at his property.

**October 16th (WI)** - Milwaukee police said a city housing inspector was injured in a shooting Tuesday, Oct. 26, while sitting inside her car. It happened at 10:12 a.m. near 48th and Fairmount Avenue. Officers said the 41-year-old woman was sitting in her car when an armed suspect approached with a gun. The city worker drove away in her vehicle, and the suspect fired shots, striking her.

**October 11th (OK)** - Citizen attacked an officers vehicle by throwing full beer bottles and projectiles at city vehicle shattering the back glass which cut the officer. Citizen then chased officer a block and a half away to try to continue to attack the officer.

**October 1st (FL)** - I received a complaint for a commercial tow truck that was parked on the swale of a vacant lot. I conducted the initial inspection and the commercial vehicle was tagged. Hours later I received 2 voicemails on my city cell phone while I was at lunch. The driver of the truck left racial threats to perform physical harm to me if he had seen me put the red tags on the vehicle. He also stated that he would perform physical harm to me if he were to see me approach his car again. My supervisor contacted him and explained the violation and that threats could lead to arrest.

**September 28th (CA)** - I received a letter from the individual that I have a case with at my home. They now know where I live by obtaining the information from the Assessor's office by searching my name. The individual has severe mental health issues and also believe they are an attorney. The letter I received is fraudulently claiming there is a lien on my property. Throughout the course of a year I have received lengthy fraudulent notices threatening me legally and demanding personal information at work. This was the first one that I received at home. There is a huge difference in the notices that is concerning. The ones sent to my work were all typed, extremely lengthy, and appearing to be more "official". This one was quickly hand written on a piece of lined paper and torn out of a notebook.

**September 19th (FL)** - While conducting a reinspection of a property for violations related to items stored in a carport, the woman at the property phoned someone as she was speaking to me. She was not pleasant as I explained the situation and informed her that all she had to do was remove the indoor furniture from the carport, either to the inside or to the garden shed. As we were talking a vehicle pulled into the driveway driven by a man who quickly exited the vehicle, slamming the door and came within a foot of my face screaming at me that I was trespassing. He demanded a business card, which I gave him, and then he demanded to know the violations but as I was trying to tell him he kept screaming. At this point I was concerned for my safety so I walked past him to my vehicle and he followed me, yelling at me the entire time. As I got into my vehicle he grabbed the door. When I pulled it closed, he punched the drivers side window. I then drove off.

# Thank You Partners!

CEOSF wants to thank all of our partner associations and sponsors! We appreciate state associations supporting the Foundation and the topic of officer safety for their members. It is important to recognize these associations for their commitment to their membership and keeping them safe. It is exciting to gain the support of the International Code Council (ICC). The Board of Directors met with their executives and were thrilled to hear of ICC's passion for the safety of the professionals in the building safety industry.



## In Memory

From January through March we remember and honor those who have died serving their communities.

January 14th – **DENNIS CATANYAG**, California  
(1st anniversary - Murder)

February 5th – **VINCENT SCANLON**, Florida  
(37th anniversary - Murder)

March 22nd – **GREG "ZIGGY" ZYSKIEWICZ**, Wisconsin  
(5th anniversary - Murder)



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# CEOSF Officer Safety Certified Instructor (COSCI)



The Code Enforcement Officer Safety Foundation (CEOSF) is proud to announce the launch of the CEOSF Officer Safety Certified Instructor (COSCI) program to recognize and acknowledge code professionals and trainers who possess qualifications to provide officer safety and survival instruction. These individuals exhibit “best practices” in training delivery by being highly recommended by Department Directors and by maintaining their training skills through the completion of continuing professional education instructor course work. This program is for all professional trainers to include code enforcement officers, building inspectors, fire inspectors, housing inspectors, zoning inspectors, health inspectors, animal control officers, peace officers, sheriff deputies, academic instructors, private trainers, and others interested in improving code enforcement officer safety/survival training and individual instructional skill sets.

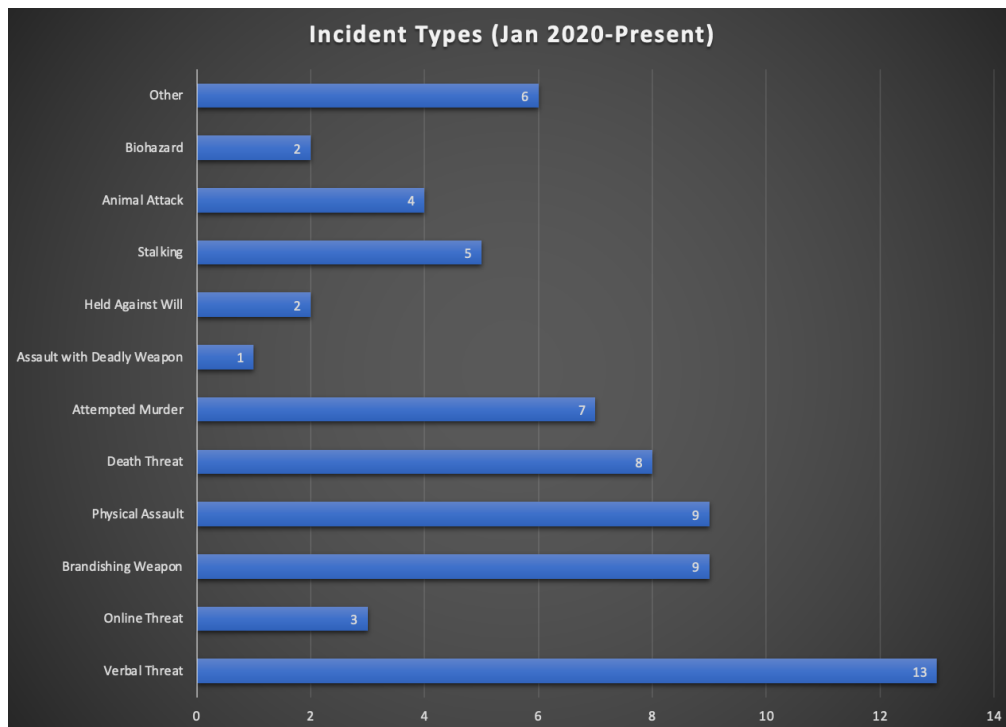
The CEOSF Officer Safety Certified Instructor (COSCI) program recognizes and acknowledges qualified officer safety and survival instructors who provide high-quality best practices training to code professionals. The Foundation believes it is extremely important to have instructors who are qualified, vetted, and experienced to facilitate courses on officer safety/survival especially as the topic of officer safety is becoming more prevalent within the code enforcement profession. Time in position, in and of itself, is not a qualification standard to be a trainer especially relating to officer safety. It is also easy for “instructors” to facilitate officer safety classes without having the proper credentials and experience to teach on the topic. The Foundation views such practices as not only unsafe but morally and ethically wrong. By setting a certification standard based on documented instructor qualifications and experience the Foundation can recommend to the profession, with confidence, that training professionals who have the COSCI designation are qualified to facilitate training on officer safety for code professionals. All trainers who have COSCI certification have:

- Successfully completed a general instructor certification program and provided documented proof of completion
- More than 3 years of experience facilitating courses on officer safety/survival
- Provided documentation of officer safety and survival training certifications and courses completed
- Endorsements from a Code Director, POST Director, or Law Enforcement Academy Director, or three references
- A commitment to continuing education regarding instructor development
- An unwavering passion for officer safety

## What are the benefits of becoming a CEOSF Officer Safety Certified Instructor (COSCI)?

- Receive an identification card with the CEOSF seal documenting your Officer Safety Certified Instructor status and expiration date
- Receive a CEOSF Officer Safety Certified Instructor certificate, suitable for framing
- Post your picture and biographical information on your CEOSF Officer Safety Certified Instructor webpage with links back to your webpage if applicable
- Use the COSCI Badge for emails or business cards.
- Use the CEOSF Officer Safety Certified Instructor Program acronym COSCI on your business cards, letterhead, email signature, etc. Example: Justin Edson, CCEO, COSS, COSCI
- “Charter member” status designated on ID card for the first 50 members

# Incident Data

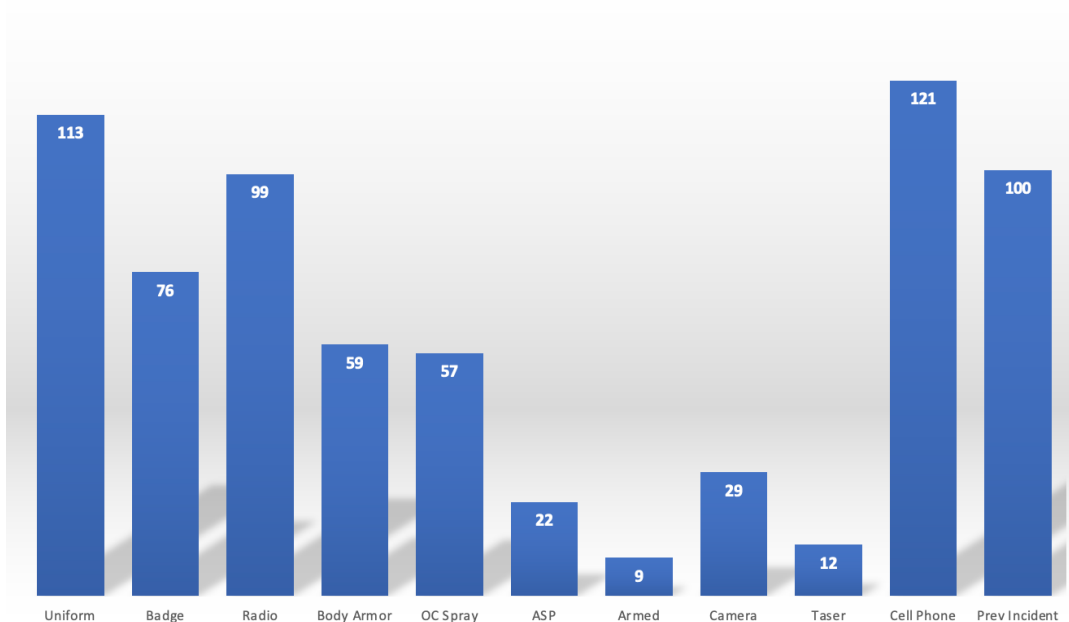


This is data from January 2020 to present that has been reported to CEOSF. A total of 69 incidents have been reported to us nationally during this period. 34 incidents reported in 2020 and 35 incidents in 2021. We have an updated feed of these incidents and their details on our "Statistics" page on the website. Please do not forget to report any incidents that occur to you. As you can see on our website, we keep everything confidential and only share the state, date, and description.

Report incidents: <https://www.codeofficersafety.org/report-incident>

# Equipment Survey Results

Equipment Survey Results



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# Contact Us



## **Newsletter**

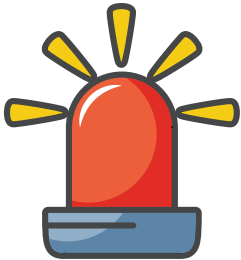
*Please contact us if you have a question regarding our newsletter, would like to see a specific topic in the next one, or would like to be a contributor.*

*For general questions & newsletter requests: [info@CodeOfficerSafety.org](mailto:info@CodeOfficerSafety.org)*



## **Partnerships**

*If you would like to become a recognized partner as an association that supports us or as a donor, then please contact Justin Edson at [justin@codeofficersafety.org](mailto:justin@codeofficersafety.org)*



## **Body Armor Donation Requests**

*Are you a Code Enforcement Officer in need of body armor and either can't afford it or your agency does not provide one? Please fill out our Request A Vest form at [www.codeofficersafety.org/requestavest](http://www.codeofficersafety.org/requestavest)*



## **Remember to Report**

*The data we collect is dependent on you reporting incidents when they occur. The data is used by state associations and jurisdictions to make a case on officer safety legislation and equipment. Whether you were threatened, assaulted, stalked, or attacked by an animal; it is all important data. We keep your information and agency information private.*

# **[www.CodeOfficerSafety.org](http://www.CodeOfficerSafety.org)**