What to do in the event of a Cal/OSHA Inspection

What is a Cal/OSHA Inspection?
Cal/OSHA inspectors make unannounced visits to make sure that the UCM campus and associated facilities are safe and healthy.

What triggers an inspection?
Inspectors visit worksites after a serious injury or exposure to one or more employees. Additionally, as part of the recent settlement agreement with the Los Angeles District Attorney, Cal/OSHA may also make unannounced visits to laboratory facilities. They will also conduct an inspection in response to employee complaints about any situation that may pose an imminent danger to workers.

What should you do if an inspector shows up to inspect your department?
Ask for identification. The inspector must ask for permission from a management representative to conduct the inspection. Call EH&S at (209)228-2347 or either 228-4234, 228-7864 to inform EH&S of the pending inspection. Ask the Cal/OSHA inspector to wait until an EH&S safety specialist arrives before beginning his/her inspection. Please note that Cal/OSHA personnel can document observable conditions and/or start the inspection if a loss of critical information may occur while awaiting arrival of a UCM EH&S representative. This is at the determination of the Cal/OSHA Inspector.

What will happen during the inspection?
The Cal/OSHA inspector will start with an opening conference to explain the reason for the visit. An inspection walkthrough of the entire lab or a targeted work area will follow. Inspectors have the right to walk around the area (accompanied), interview employees in private, and document hazards with photos and measurements. Employees may ask for legal representation provided by the university to be present during the interview if desired.

Please be courteous and don’t argue, but provide neutral, fact based answers. Don’t give opinions or guesses.

How do you find out what the inspector observed?
Immediately after the walkthrough, the inspector will conduct a closing conference and provide inspection results. He/she may ask that protocols, standard operating procedures, or other documents such as your Lab Safety Plan be submitted to Cal/OSHA within 1-14 days.

What follow-up must you provide?
Make corrective actions and gather requested documents and provide them to EH&S for submission to Cal/OSHA by the stated deadline. Missed deadlines can result in additional inspections, citations and fines.

Need additional resources?
• Cal OSHA Policy Manual on Enforcement: http://www.dir.ca.gov/samples/search/querypnp.htm

Or contact EH&S for additional information.