



Reply to the Attention of: Bonita Winingham

February 13, 2015

Langley Productions
Attn: Mr. John Langley
1111 Broadway
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Mr. Langley:

An inspection of your company disclosed the following hazards:

The employees of Langley Productions (camera crews consisting of a camera operator and sound technician) recording law enforcement officers performing work are exposed to the hazards of gun fire and other violent acts. On August 26, 2014, while recording the COPS television show, a sound technician was fatally injured when struck by a bullet while following police officers into the scene of an armed robbery. During this incident, the police opened fire on the robbery suspect brandishing what appeared to be a firearm. While the victim was wearing a ballistic vest, provided by the employer, the bullet struck him under the arm where the vest did not protect.

After reviewing all relevant facts pertaining to this case, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration will not issue a citation at this time for failing to protect employees from workplace violence hazards, an issue which would be addressed under the General Duty Clause of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.

However, in the interest of workplace safety and health, I recommend you voluntarily take reasonable steps in addressing this issue. The following recommendations are actions which could be taken to enhance the safety of your employees.

1. Instruct and train employees on how to orient their bodies so their ballistic vests provide maximum protection when they come under fire.
2. Instruct and train employees on how to take cover in situations where gunfire is occurring, or can be reasonably anticipated to occur.
3. Instruct and train employees on how to film and record from a distance in situations where gunfire is occurring, or can be reasonably anticipated to occur.

4. Instruct and train employees to stay behind police officers, and if an employee gets out of position they must retreat to a place of safety rather than attempting to regain a position to film or record sound.
5. Instruct and train employees not to accompany law enforcement into crime scenes where camera crews know in advance there is a likelihood that gunfire could be exchanged, including scenes of armed robbery or where suspects are brandishing or are reported to be brandishing weapons.
6. Remove bonus incentives which may encourage employees to take risks obtaining attention grabbing or action packed stories.

To evaluate your progress in addressing these hazards, please send me a letter detailing the actions you have taken or plan to take to address our concerns by March 31, 2015. The Omaha Area Office will follow up at a later date to evaluate any newly implemented or enhanced policies and/or procedures related to these hazards, as well as new or modified employee training you have conducted to boost the safety and health of film crews in the field.

We appreciate your attention to these areas of concern. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 402-553-0171.

Sincerely,



Bonita Winingham
Area Director