MICHAEL KARL McNEIL

REP · RIH · EPP · QSD · EDA

Curriculum Vitae — Occupational Safety, Industrial Hygiene and Hazardous Materials Expert

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Current as of November 2026

PROFILE

Principal of McNeil Safety Consulting and a Former Fire Battalion Chief with 25 years in the fire service, in occupational health and safety since 1989. Retained by plaintiff and defense counsel nationwide as a testifying or consulting expert on OSHA and Cal/OSHA standards, industrial hygiene and chemical exposure, hazardous materials, and workplace injuries and fatalities. Every engagement is handled personally; nothing is subcontracted.

TESTIMONY AND LITIGATION EXPERIENCE

- Deposed more than 60 times, in the fire service and as a private consultant.
- Deposed by, and has taken the depositions of, personnel of the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA), the Washington Department of Labor and Industries, and New Mexico OSHA in occupational safety enforcement proceedings.
- Retained by both plaintiffs and defendants. Reports prepared for Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(2)(B) and Federal Rule of Evidence 702, and for California Evidence Code §§720 and 801.
- Representation of employers before the Cal/OSHA Appeals Board as designated non-attorney representative: appeals, subpoenas duces tecum, motions to compel and for sanctions, petitions for protective order, and settlement with Division counsel.

AREAS OF EXPERT OPINION

- **Construction and multi-employer worksites** — falls, trenching and excavation, struck-by and caught-between, scaffolds and ladders; Multi-Employer Citation Policy (CPL 02-00-124), Title 8 §336.10, Labor Code §6400(b).
- **Machine guarding and amputation** — point-of-operation guarding, lockout/blockout (Title 8 §3314; 29 CFR §§1910.147, 1910.212), ANSI B11 series, employer and manufacturer responsibility.
- **Chemical exposure and exposure reconstruction** — retrospective exposure assessment, exposure modeling, review of sampling against NIOSH and OSHA methods; OSHA PELs, Title 8 §5155, ACGIH TLVs, hazard communication and respiratory protection. Field measurements are made on site with calibrated hand-held direct-reading instruments. Establishes exposure; medical causation is left to the physician or toxicologist.
- **Hazardous materials** — storage, segregation and release, HAZWOPER (29 CFR §1910.120, Title 8 §5192), emergency action planning, NFPA 30, 400 and 704.
- **Battery energy storage and solar** — BESS fire cause and failure investigation, thermal runaway and off-gassing; NFPA 855, UL 9540 and 9540A, NFPA 70E; responder and worker exposure including hydrogen fluoride.
- **Heat illness** — Title 8 §§3395 and 3396, general duty clause, heat-index and WBGT reconstruction.
- **Workplace and environmental fatalities** — confined space (29 CFR §1910.146, Title 8 §5157), asphyxiation and entrapment, root-cause analysis.
- **Ergonomics and human factors** — lifting and repetitive-motion injuries (Title 8 §5110, ACGIH lifting and hand-activity TLVs, NIOSH Revised Lifting Equation), warnings and instructions (ANSI Z535), human error in task and procedure design.

Fire cause investigation is limited to battery energy storage system (BESS) fires and failures. General structure and wildland fire origin-and-cause and arson investigation are outside the scope of his expert work.

REPRESENTATIVE RECENT MATTERS (NAMES WITHHELD)

- Product liability, industrial roller mill amputation, California Superior Court. Retained by defense counsel for the manufacturer; machine inspection and 82-page expert report with 21 opinions. Designated expert.
- Workplace fatality, motorized horizontal sliding gate, Cal/OSHA. Physical inspection and positive-stop analysis under Title 8 §3324; written report and subpoena rider.
- Workplace crush fatality during flatbed unloading at a logistics facility, California Superior Court. Plaintiff-retained consulting expert.

- Workplace fatality, herbicide exposure. Plaintiff-retained; chemical handling and chemical truck review.
- Construction safety, California Superior Court. Retained construction safety expert.
- Fall injury at a television production studio. Defense-retained; site inspection and multi-employer analysis.
- Multi-employer excavation and impalement citations, Cal/OSHA Appeals Board. Employer representative.

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATIONS

- Registered Environmental Professional (REP), registrant no. 14638023561210825, conferred 25 August 2021
- Registered Industrial Hygienist (RIH), registrant no. 14638029794240319, conferred 19 March 2024
- Emergency Planning Professional (EPP), registrant no. 14638029794240319, conferred 8 January 2025 (registrant numbers are assigned per registrant, so RIH and EPP share one)
- Qualified SWPPP Developer (QSD), State Water Resources Control Board, SMARTS
- AIHA Registered Specialist: Exposure Decision Analysis (EDA), AIHA Registry Programs, ID 288375, registered 1 October 2026; five-year registration renewed by re-examination
- StormwaterONE Qualified Preparer of Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans and Qualified Compliance Inspector of Stormwater, certificate 50df-5972-eb61-e6d4, valid to 24 February 2028

CERTIFICATIONS AND TRAINING

- Hazardous Materials Manager; HAZMAT Specialist and Incident Commander
- HAZWOPER 40-hour (2020); Hazardous Materials Scene Management: Incident Commander, 24-hour (1993); First Responder Operations per 29 CFR §1910.120(q)(6)(ii) (2004)
- U.S. EPA National Enforcement Training Institute, Basic Inspector Course (2007); EPA Watershed Academy, Watershed Management (2007)
- OSHA 30-hour (2017); Cal/OSHA Training Academy, COVID-19 Training for California Employers (2021), certificate pi4nar22mrje
- National Fire Academy, Fire Service Supervision (2003); FEMA IS-800 National Response Plan; NEPA Concepts; Basic Aviation Safety (1993)
- Clandestine laboratory safety, introductory (2003) with recurring recertification, most recently March 2024; fentanyl safety and naloxone (2025)
- Medical Defense Against Biological and Chemical Agents, advanced topics, 12 contact hours (2002–2003)
- Foundations of Environmental Death Investigations (Missouri POST Control No. 31578, ABMDI 26-117); Environmental Asphyxiation and Entrapment Deaths (Missouri POST Control No. 31574, ABMDI 26-116); CDC TRAIN WB4884, Investigation and Certification of Drug Toxicity Deaths
- EMT-II (California); Certified Tactical Medic, continuing training 2024–2025; BLS and ACLS provider, current to August 2028
- Management and Strategy Institute: Corporate Leadership Certified; Senior Fellow, Business Leadership Council; Lean Six Sigma White Belt

FIRE SERVICE

25 years, advancing from volunteer firefighter and reserve fire inspector to Fire Prevention Captain and Fire Battalion Chief, Prevention, with a federal fire agency, with assignments across the Western United States. California State Fire Marshal and NWCG credentials; federal law enforcement training at FLETC.

MEMBERSHIPS, PUBLICATIONS AND RECOGNITION

- ACOEM (368048), AIHA, ACGIH, NAFI (25411), NAHMMA, FLEOA (229154), ISSP (Level 5, Distinguished Safety Professional), Society for Chemical Hazard Communication (SCHC), United States Bomb Technician Association (USBTA), NFPA Research Section and Wildland Fire Management Section
- Contributor to the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine; reviewer for ACOEM; co-author of ACOEM public comments to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (2026)
- Listed in the JurisPro and SEAK expert witness directories
- Certificate of Congressional Recognition (2024); Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition (2001); two Certificates of Merit, federal fire service (2006); Certificate of Appreciation, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, USMC (2008)