

TROY YOAKUM'S Injured Worker Horror Story



“I helped build San Francisco for 14 years. Since the governor’s law took effect I’ve lost my job, my home, and my health insurance. I can’t support my family on \$366 a week.”

About Me: My name is Troy Yoakum. I’m 39 years old, and was raised in San Francisco.

My Family: I am married, and have 4 children: Nikia, 13; Troy, Jr., 11, Christopher, 5, and Tori Marie, 4.

My Job and What Happened: I worked construction in San Francisco for 14 years, the last two for Stacy & Witbeck. I worked on remodeling City Hall, built low-cost housing and buildings at UCSF. On April 7, 2005, we were working on Sixth Street, between Mission and Market, upgrading the gas, water and sewer system. I was in a trench that collapsed in on me, crushing both my knees, and completely rupturing my right knee ligament. My crew didn’t even know I was lying in the trench screaming for my life until a guy on a bike alerted them.

What this has meant to my life: The company sent me to its doctor at Concentra Medical Center in downtown SF. The doctor doesn’t recommend surgery, so the company’s not providing much treatment. My employer fired me because I can’t work construction without restrictions on bending, stooping or lifting much weight. I lost my apartment when AIG Insurance stopped all my benefits in January. They cut me off because the company’s doctor hadn’t filed his report. I’ve lost my health insurance, so neither mine nor my kids’ health are insured. I doubt I’ll be able to work construction ever again.

How the Governor's Workers' Comp Law Affects Me

How Workers' Comp was supposed to help me: I was to receive immediate medical care, but the company’s doctor recommends doing little. Temporary disability benefits were to help replace my lost income while I heal and train for a desk job, but the insurance company cut me off of that. I was to get Permanent Disability Compensation for the loss of my future earnings. But the governor’s schedule says I’m 1% to 3% disabled - even though both my knees are shot and I can’t do my job. The governor calls this a big success.

www.VotersInjuredatWork.org

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