

GARY HOAG'S Injured Worker Horror Story



“I was crushed between two vehicles. I was bleeding profusely and thought I would probably die. I asked the dispatcher to call my wife and tell her that I loved her. But SCIF denies my right leg was injured and has cut off physical therapy. SCIF has denied necessary medical treatment. They’re taking away my only hope.”

About Me: My name is Gary Hoag, and I live in Fallbrook, near San Diego.

My Family: I am married. My wife, Juli, and I have no children, but we do have two rottweilers - my constant companions.

My Job and What Happened: I worked as a California Highway Patrol Officer for 23 years. On January 10, 2005, I was investigating an auto accident on I-5, near the San Onofre nuclear plant. The weather was poor that day, with fog and heavy rain. A Jeep had crashed in the center median. While I was preparing to call for an ambulance, a car traveling at 70 mph spun out of control, collided with the guard rail and began to skid backwards. My body was crushed between the two cars. I could not feel my legs. I knew I was bleeding profusely and would probably die. I asked the dispatcher to call my wife and tell her that I loved her. A witness to the collision rushed to my assistance, literally saving my life by applying a tourniquet to my left thigh. Both legs had been crushed and the left leg was nearly severed; only one tendon kept it attached. My left leg was re-attached after numerous surgeries and I underwent a spinal fusion. The insurance company (SCIF) has denied numerous prescriptions by my primary physician for necessary medical treatment. This included denied care for my right leg, claiming not enough medical evidence! They’ve cut off my physical therapy because the law allows only 24 visits. Now SCIF is making me wait five months for their doctor review, precious time I can never make up.

What this has meant to my life: My career as a California Highway Patrol Officer ended that day when the paramedics cut off my uniform. I’ve been forced into a disability retirement. Every step I take is extremely painful, which has greatly reduced the quality of the rest of my life.

How the Governor's Workers' Comp Law Affects Me

How Workers' Comp was supposed to help me: Workers compensation insurance was to provide medical care to heal my injuries, therapy and temporary disability. Up to December 2006, that was working, then the newly formed SCIF division in Sacramento took over my case and has denied almost all requests for treatment. Without therapy for my left ankle, it will atrophy resulting with the possibility of an additional surgery. The SCIF adjuster stated, “I will enforce the reform laws of 2004.”

www.VotersInjuredatWork.org

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