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# Hazards in the Car Wash Industry — in Los Angeles, CA —

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# Objectives

- Assist with the development and facilitation of a 24 HR - HAZWOPER (Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response)/Detail training specific to the car wash industry.
- Conduct worker surveys to assess the course's efficacy and gather workers' first-hand experiences and perspectives on hazards in the car wash industry.
- To see how different organizations come together to create solutions in order to help address worker issues.



# CLEAN Carwash Campaign



**Mission:** to provide a safe space for car washer workers to exercise their rights and challenge the working conditions in their exploitative industry



# Car Wash Industry in Los Angeles, CA

Over 500 car washes and 10,000 carwashers in Los Angeles (CLEAN Carwash Campaign)



**Hand Car Wash**

Taken from Mobile Wash



**Tunnel Car Wash**

Taken from MotorCity Wash Works



**Mobile Car Wash**

Taken from WordPress.com



# Hazards in the Car Wash Industry



Taken from AutoLaundry News

- Loud Noises
- Heavy Machinery
- Rail/Conveyor Belt



Taken from IndiaMart

- Chemical Exposures
- Chemicals not labeled
- No access to Safety Data Sheets



Taken from OC Register

- Heat
- No PPE
- Ergonomic Hazard
- Psychological stress

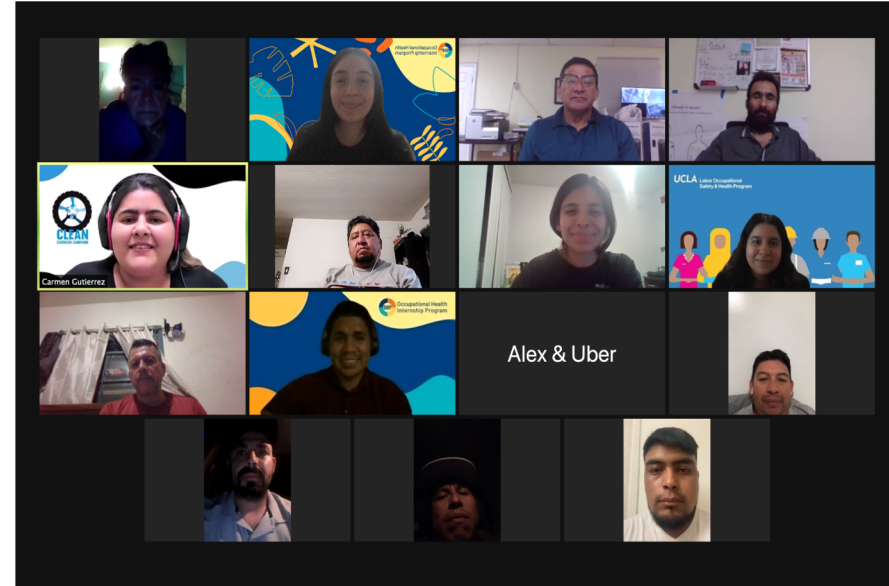


Taken from RideSharing Services

- Biological Hazards
- Lack of proper training/PPE

# Methods: Virtual HAZWOPER Training

- 6 Week (24 Hour) HAZWOPER Training
  - Specific to the Car Wash Industry
    - For Spanish Speakers
  - Worker Surveys after every session



# Methods: In-Person Detail Training

In-person training to give Companer@s the opportunity to learn to use certain tools of the trade (polishing machine, clay bars, etc.) while also using personal protective equipment.





# Methods: Outreach

Visited several car washes in South Central L.A.

Some observations included:

- Nervousness from workers
- Understaffed
- No water provided
- Little to no personal protective equipment
- Small/cluttered breakrooms
- Chemicals not labeled and near food/water



Taken from LA Daily News

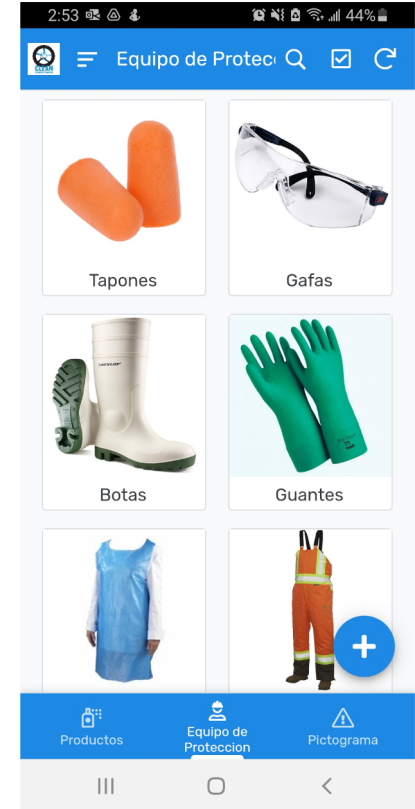
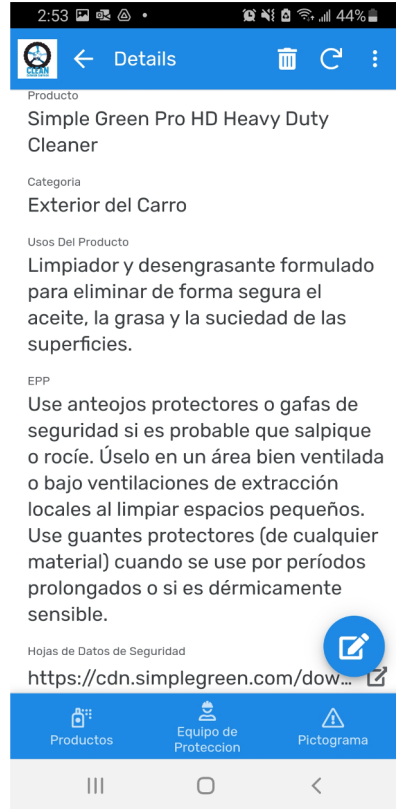
# Results

- Issues faced in the car wash industry:
  - Lack of hazard controls
  - Lack of any training
  - No access to Safety Data Sheets
  - No knowledge about Illness and Injury Prevention Programs
  - No Eyewash Stations at car washes
  - A lot of pressure from management (leading to injury)

**“After working so many years in car washes, I still have a fear of polishing a car. I hope to be able to learn how to do this in order to get rid of the fear, and be able to have more opportunities at work.” - Compañera Rosalba**



# Give Back Product





# Conclusion

- 10 Companer@s will be receiving their HAZWOPER/Detail Training Certificate of Completion on August 12th.
- The car wash industry has much to improve in terms of worker safety and worker rights, but organizations such as CLEAN Carwash Campaign are helping in the fight for better conditions.



<https://www.cleancarwash.org/>



@carwasherxs

# Recommendations for the Future

- Implement a Bloodborne Pathogen Training for car wash workers
- Make the training available to more employees.
- Look into the discrimination that women face within the car wash industry
- Hybrid Training Model

# Challenges

- Limitations of Zoom
  - Lack of Participation at times
  - Connectivity Issues
- Lack of Material in Spanish
  - Such as Safety Data Sheets
  - Illness and Injury Prevention Programs at worksite

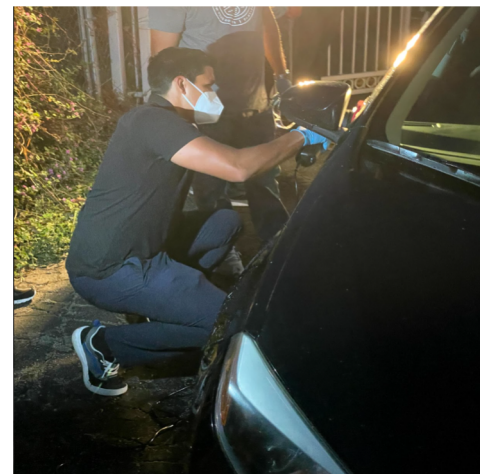
# Successes

- Environment where the students felt comfortable sharing and learning from each other experiences..
- Being able to learn from the car wash workers to implement ideas into future trainings.

**“I am going to start using these products in a safer manner immediately. Prior to this class, I would wipe the chemicals everywhere, not caring if it got on me. Now that I learned more about the dangers, I will take a more cautious approach when using them.” - Compañero Uber**

# Personal Reflections

This summer has been a great learning experience and has motivated and inspired us to fight for underrepresented workers. We are grateful for having had the chance to hear experiences from the workers as well as having given an opportunity to participate in the outreach and detail trainings in person. These are experiences that we will never forget.



# Acknowledgements

