

One Minutes' Silence - 12:00, 28 April 09

Join UNISON's UK-wide one minutes' silence, and continue the campaign for International Workers Memorial Day to be formally recognised as a national day of remembrance.



This year is the third year of UNISON's campaign for IWMD to be formally recognised as a national day of remembrance.

Far too many workers and their families suffer each and every year. The figures from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and which make the headlines never tell the full story.

So what is the full story? It is estimated that each year work incidents cause up to 1,600 deaths; including deaths to members of the public, work-related suicide, and road traffic accidents whilst driving for work. On top of this, it is estimated that there are up to 50,000 deaths from work-related illnesses; including cancers, respiratory illnesses, and heart disease. For more detail, see *The Whole Story*, in the *Safety and Health Practitioner* at: www.shponline.co.uk/article.asp?pagename=archive&article_id=8265.

NOT ACCEPTABLE!

Society no-longer finds drink-driving or domestic violence acceptable. It's time for work-related ill-health, injury, and death to also become unacceptable rather than a tragic but accepted part of the world of work. Let's not forget that the HSE has stated in the past that about 70% of

Let us know that your branch and/or workplace are joining us in a minutes' silence at 12:00 on 28 April.
Email: v.borg@unison.co.uk or tel: 020 7551 1709. Also let us know if you have anything else planned.

At 12 midday on Tuesday 28 April, UNISON staff across the UK will take part in a minutes' silence. During that minute we will remember those workers injured, made ill, or killed by their work.

What do you have planned for International Workers Memorial Day (IWMD)? Have you or your branch organised an event, or are you taking part in a joint event? If not, there's still time to plan something. Let us know what!

And join us in a minutes silence at 12 midday - let's make this IWMD the most "remembered" so far. Speak to your employer about asking all staff to take part in a minutes' silence whilst at work.

BACKGROUND

Each year IWMD is marked around the world to "Remember the Dead, and Fight for the Living". We remember those killed, made ill, or injured by their own or someone else's work - their pain and suffering and that of their families deserve not to be forgotten. And we renew our commitment to and demand once more, safe and healthy work for all.

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Website: www.unison.org.uk/safety.
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Inside this issue:

Campaigning Diary Dates
Hazards Conf. Temp. at Work
Safety Reps - about your role,
your successes, and
your recruitment activity.
Smoking passively Waste and Recycling
Workers Memorial Day

In 2009 there will be five regular issues of *Organiser*, out at the end of: February (this issue), May, July, September, and November; plus a special issue for *Safety in Numbers* (see page 3).

workplace "accidents" are due to the poor management of health and safety.

RESOURCES

UNISON will be making a number of resources available, sending them out to branch safety officers, and updating the UNISON IWMD webpages over the next couple of months. The first of two planned posters is now available (see below). Start your IWMD campaign by ordering poster no.1 (stock no. 1288) - see "How To Order" on page 2 and visit our website at: www.unison.org.uk/safety/campaigns.asp.



Workers' Memorial Day
28 April 2009

- Too many work-related deaths
- Too many 'accidents' and injuries
- Too much occupational ill-health

Remember the dead, fight for the living

Join UNISON's campaign for a national day of remembrance on 28 April each year.

For more information, or to join UNISON go to:
www.unison.co.uk/safety



A Short Guide to Campaigning

Campaigning is about achieving change. When you campaign you are trying to either persuade someone to change their opinion or to do something that they wouldn't have otherwise done.

A campaign needs an aim or purpose, so you need to be clear about:

- what you want done,
- why it needs to be done, and
- who you want to do it.

Campaigning therefore requires:

- planning - to work out the aims and what needs to be done;
- organisation - so that you do the right things at the right time;
- resources - the people, time, facilities, information, equipment, and finance to make it happen; and
- evaluation - have you achieved the aims, what worked well, and what could be improved next time?

KEEP COLLEAGUES AND MEMBERS INFORMED

Once you've planned what you are going to do, maximize the participation of others. Let them know about your campaign early enough to give them time to prepare or make arrangements.

Use newsletters, leaflets, and posters, etc. and keep the message simple, quick, and

easy to read. For IWMD, keep a look out for materials produced nationally by UNISON - there's the poster as seen on page 1, with a second poster and a flyer to follow. Our IWMD webpages (address below) will have additional materials.

DON'T FORGET TO RECRUIT!

Any campaign is an opportunity to meet members and potential members and show them that UNISON is active on their behalf. If they are interested in health and safety, encourage them to join UNISON, or if they are already a member, then they may consider becoming a safety rep. Make sure that you've always got some recruitment leaflets and application forms to hand.

To order your copies - see "How To Order" below. Options, include: a safety rep recruitment poster (stock no. 1681 - www.unison.org.uk/acrobat/14463.pdf) and leaflet (stock no. 1682 - www.unison.org.uk/acrobat/17525.pdf), a health and safety member recruitment leaflet (stock no. 2729), and a general membership application form (stock no. 1088). There is also a selection of sector/job specific recruitment materials.

AND TELL THE WIDER WORLD!

A news or press release is the most useful way of getting your story to journalists,

but to stand a chance of it being considered you must present it properly.

The basic rule is that it must contain the "five W's" at the very beginning. In the first paragraph or preferably sentence, state:

- 1) What is happening,
- 2) Who is doing it,
- 3) Where it is happening,
- 4) When it is happening, and then lastly
- 5) Why it is happening.

The following paragraphs should give more detail about the five "W's", with the facts in a logical order. Any opinion should be in the form of a quote from a key figure in your campaign or a "big name". Sentences must be short, assertive, active, and positive (for more on this see the IWMD webpages). And don't forget a short snappy headline, preferably involving someone doing something.

Lastly, make sure that you: state that it is a "NEWS RELEASE" at the very top and give a contact name and tel. no. at the bottom. If there is any background information or a photo opportunity put this at the end under "Notes to Editors."

For more information on how to run a campaign or write a news release, go to UNISON's IWMD webpages at: www.unison.org.uk/safety/campaigns.asp.

Case Studies Required

It is a sad fact that most of the media and people in general only become interested in a cause or event when there is a human tragedy, especially one they can relate to.

We want to show that IWMD and health and safety is not about red tape, bureaucracy, busy bodies, and the nanny state; but instead, that it is about preventable harm to hard working people, and misery and poverty for them and their families.

If you've got a story you'd like to share, about you, a family member, a work mate, or some other UNISON member, then contact Vincent Borg at: v.borg@unison.co.uk or on: 020 7551 1709. Don't worry - your story will remain anonymous unless you say otherwise.

Get Your MPs Support!

EDM 695 on IWMD already has the support of 50 MPs in just over a week. It asks the government to reaffirm the right of all workers to work in a safe and healthy workplace, and calls on it to officially recognise IWMD as a day of national remembrance. Write to or email your MP and ask them to support it.

You can find the EDM in full at <http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/>

If you don't know who your MP is, or how to get in touch, go to: <http://findyourmp.parliament.uk/commons/1/> or www.writetothem.com. If you don't have internet access, your local council should be able to advise you of who he or she is.

What is an EDM? An early day motion is a formal motion submitted to the House of Commons. Very few are debated. Instead, they are used to publicise views, draw attention to specific events or campaigns, and/or demonstrate parliamentary support for a particular cause or point of view.

HOW TO ORDER

Most UNISON health and safety materials are available at: www.unison.org.uk/safety. Items with a stock no. can also be ordered from the Catalogue at: www.unison.org.uk/catalogue.

If you don't have a computer or web access, then for items with a stock no. email: stockorders@unison.co.uk or call: 020 7551 1481. In either case, you'll need to state: the document's title and stock no, the no. required, your name, your branch name and no, tel. no, and full postal address. For all other UNISON materials without a stock no, see our contact details on page 1.

DIARY DATES 2009

Action Mesothelioma Day - 27 Feb
International RSI Day - 28 Feb
National No Smoking Day - 11 March
World TB Day - 24 March
UNISON National H&S Seminar -
26 March
Workers Memorial Day - 28 April
Hazards Conference - 10 - 12 July

Too Hot @ Work?

Every year, UNISON members and other workers across the UK suffer from having to work in too hot an environment indoors. The TUC plans to progress the campaign for a legal maximum temperature at work indoors. Can you help?

- Do you have any examples of where health or safety has been compromised by heat indoors?
- Have you or your branch run a campaign on the issue?
- Have you had success in getting a change brought about by your branch campaign or any other action?

Send or email any information to the contact details on page 1. You can also support a legal maximum temperature at work by signing the petition at: <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/workinghot>.



Safety in Numbers

This year UNISON aims to recruit many more health and safety reps and members across UK workplaces.

Safety in Numbers will launch at the National Delegate Conference in June and is aimed at members and potential members of the union across all service groups. We will be encouraging non-members to join UNISON and existing members to take on the role of safety rep at their workplace.

We're now looking for current safety reps to tell us why they became a rep, how UNISON helped them take on this role, and what difference they feel they are making as they strive to improve the health and safety of their members.

Contact Hope Daley at: h.daley@unison.co.uk and us and tell us your story, or see contact details on page 1.



We also want to hear about your success at work. Have you organised a local campaign and improved the health and safety of your members? Or maybe you've successfully represented a member in your role as a safety rep? Perhaps you've developed a good working relationship with your employer around health and safety issues?

Share your story with potential health and safety reps by contacting Hope - see above.

Lights, camera, action!

UNISON is looking for some willing volunteers to be filmed talking about their experiences as a health and safety rep for UNISON. We are also looking for permission to visit workplaces and film you in action. The film will highlight the role of UNISON safety reps, and will be used in our *Safety in Numbers* campaign. Want to know more, then email Hope Daley at h.daley@unison.co.uk or see the contact details on page 1.

Safer and Healthier in Waste and Recycling

Deaths at work in the waste and recycling industry are more than 10 times the national average. Reportable accidents are more than four times higher. This makes the industry one of the most dangerous.

Members of the Waste Industry Safety and Health forum (WISH) have therefore pledged to improve these statistics by signing a five-year charter to:

- reduce reportable accident rates by 10% per year over five years,
- reduce the number of working days lost due to accidents and ill-health.
- promote effective health and safety management,
- improve the health and safety climate and attitudes in the workforce, and
- increase the level of competence.



As a member of WISH, UNISON arranged for the TUC to sign the charter on behalf of all union members. Kay Carberry, TUC Assistant General Secretary (pictured signing the charter, left) said that: "Any attempt to improve safety in this industry gets our full support."

WISH has produced useful guidance for the industry over the last few years. Any further big improvements will depend on getting more employers to implement the guidance. UNISON for its part will be promoting the charter, and plans to produce awareness raising guidance for activists and members later in the year.

For more information on WISH, go to: www.hse.gov.uk/waste/wish.htm.

• UNISON operates an informal forum of those who work in the waste and recycling industry. This group is used to receive input and feedback direct from members and activists within this sector. If you'd like to take part, contact Vincent Borg. Email: v.borg@unison.co.uk or call: 020 7551 1709.



National No Smoking Day

Wednesday 11 March is this year's National No Smoking Day. UNISON branch safety officers and safety reps might want to use this Day to review workplace smoking bans or the position of those not protected by the legal ban. These include UNISON members who visit other people's homes such as: community care workers, careers advisers, housing officers, and police support staff.

For more information, see UNISON's guidance, *Smoking at Work*, at: www.unison.org.uk/acrobat/B182.pdf, and go to: www.nosmokingday.org.uk and <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>.

Hazards Campaign

**Manchester University,
10 - 12 July**

20th National Hazards Conference - Hazards 2009

Financial Appeal

July 2008 saw yet another very successful National Hazards Conference with 231 delegates from UNISON, amounting to 46% of all those attending. Delegates attended a number of plenaries, campaign and information meetings, and workshops all focusing on health and safety and how to campaign and organise effectively.

Hazards Conference is the UK's best and largest safety reps conference, and in 2009 takes place from 10 - 12 July at the University of Manchester. The focus of Hazards Conference is on improving workplace health and safety via the key set of demands, the Hazards Charter. Delegates contribute to the Charter, develop strategies for organising on health and safety and dealing with hazards, and network with other safety reps. There is plenty to interest everyone.

UNISON's Health and Safety Unit and National Health and Safety Committee (NHSC) support the Conference each year, including: facilitation of workshops; supplying materials for an exhibition stall; and holding an event so that UNISON safety activists, staff from the Health and Safety Unit, and members from the NHSC can meet each other.

For more on the Hazards Campaign and Charter go to: www.hazardscampaign.org.uk Further details about the 2009 Conference will be sent out in due course.

In the meantime, your branch sponsorship is urgently required to keep delegates fees to a reasonable figure. The Conference is organised on a not-for-profit basis and is very good value for money. Your branch can support the Conference by completing the sponsorship form which branch safety officers will receive shortly. It is also available on the web at: www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/hazardsconference/hazconf2009sponsorshipappeal.pdf.

Once completed, please return it to Hazards 2009 at the address given (and not to UNISON).

**Ask your branch
to support the
appeal!**

**Put the date in
your diary now!**

**Speak to your
branch if it's
paying for you!**

**Download an
application form
at:
www.hazardscampaign.org.uk**

**We'll also send
your branch
safety officer a
paper copy once
we've received
them.**

See you there!