



WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY ♦ 28TH APRIL Remember the Dead: Fight for the living

Union workplaces are safer workplaces!



International Workers Memorial Day

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What is International Workers Memorial Day?

International Workers Memorial Day is a day of remembrance by workers all around the world, for all those who have been killed, injured or made ill by work. Thousands of events take place each year.

International Workers Memorial Day (IWMD) was started by Canadian Public Service Union (CUPE). The Canadian Labour Congress declared an annual day of remembrance in 1985 on the 28th of April (which is the anniversary of a comprehensive Workers Compensation Act, passed in 1914). In 1991 the Canadian parliament made the 28th April an official Workers' Mourning Day.

Hazards campaigner Tommy Harte, brought WMD to the UK in 1992 as a day to 'Remember the Dead: Fight for the Living'

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aE_Q6YDM-Pw&feature=youtu.be

How many people are killed, injured or made ill by work?

The numbers we use are very important. Check the Hazards website for the latest numbers, so that we have a consistent message. (www.gmhzards.org.uk)

More people are killed globally by work than in war. A minimum of 2.3 million people are killed annually by work worldwide – more than by war or AIDS. In GB around 1400 are killed in work-related incidents and up to 50,000 by work-related illnesses. Approx. 2 million suffering ill health and over 600,000 injuries per year.

The HSE only records specific workplace injuries and deaths; that have to be reported to the HSE

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*"If terrorism took such a toll, just imagine what would be said and done."
- Jukka Takala, ex International Labour Organisation (ILO)*

as defined by Riddor. The 144 fatalities recorded by the HSE for 2015–2016, excludes deaths on the road, air or at sea and the thousands who are dying from chronic diseases caused by work. The numbers do not include suicides related to work and members of the public who are killed by work activity.

Hazards Campaign estimates 50,000 people die each year from work-related diseases including: 20,000 from heart disease caused by dust, long hours, heavy workloads, stress; 18,000 from all work cancer including a minimum of 5,000 from asbestos exposure alone; and 12,000 from lung diseases.

How do we organise for IWMD?

In your workplace:

- ✓ Discuss the purpose of IWMD with your members
- ✓ Put up posters in your workplace and distribute leaflets about IWMD – obtain free posters, leaflets, car and lapel stickers and FACK DVDs from mail@gmhazards.org.uk
- ✓ Hold a minutes silence at work – wear purple ribbons
- ✓ Organise an event at lunch time
- ✓ Carry out a workplace inspection
- ✓ Organise a Safety Committee Meeting
- ✓ Put up a display in a place where your members will see it like the canteen or corridor.
- ✓ Use the #IWMD17 to let others know what you are doing



Attend or Organise your own IWMD Event

In your local area:

- ✓ Attend a local event and if appropriate lay a wreath
- ✓ If there is no event in your local area organise one and use the internationally decided theme to organize around.
- ✓ Invite speakers to address both the issues: remember the dead, fight for the living – local health and safety reps, trade union officers, campaigners, families of those killed locally. Read out names of people who have been killed locally.
- ✓ Lay flowers, use lighted candles, empty shoes, safety helmets, release pigeons or another display to represent those killed at/by work.
- ✓ Issue a press release and post on social media, put up posters in a public place
- ✓ Take your trade union banner to the event and take photographs
- ✓ Design and wear IWMD T-shirts
- ✓ Put up a plaque or plant a tree

Resources:

There are lots of resources for you to use on the website. Including posters, leaflets, youtube videos. See the Hazards websites, Trade Union websites, the Hazards Magazine. Also <http://28april.org/?cat=396>
 Facebook: we didn't vote to die at work Group
 Twitter @hazardscampaign
www.gmhazards.org.uk

The TUC website lists events taking place across the country: <https://www.tuc.org.uk/workplace-issues/health-and-safety/workers-memorial-day>

"We need to act on April 28th to highlight the importance of health, safety and welfare laws"

