343 U.S. Workers Die Each Day from Hazardous Working Conditions

In 2021, 5,190 working people were killed on the job and an estimated 120,000 died from occupational diseases.

Is Your Workplace Safe?

It would take federal OSHA 190 YEARS to inspect each workplace once.

Federal OSHA’s budget: $3.99 to protect each worker

Workplace Safety Violation Penalties Are Too Weak

$4,354 Average federal OSHA penalty for serious violations

$12,063 Median federal OSHA penalty for worker deaths

Since 1970, there have been 429,020 traumatic worker deaths, but only 128 cases have been criminally prosecuted under the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

8 Million Public Sector Employees Lack OSHA Coverage

In 2021, their injury and illness rate was 67% HIGHER than employees in the private sector.

For more info, visit: aflcio.org/death-on-the-job
Workers of Color Are More Likely to Die on the Job

Black and Latino workers face disproportionate risks. These workers are more likely to have dangerous working conditions and more likely to be retaliated against by employers for speaking up about job hazards.

What Must Be Done

- Workers need a seat at the table. Union contracts give workers a say in our working conditions.
- Workers and our representatives must be able to participate in OSHA inspections and developing workplace prevention plans.
- Address major hazards through strong government standards that raise the floor of protections for everyone.
- Strengthen anti-retaliation protections so workers are not punished for raising job safety concerns.
- Target job safety agency enforcement in certain industries like temp agencies, construction and warehousing.

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A Safe and Healthy Workplace Is a Fundamental Right

Under the law, employers are responsible for creating and maintaining a safe workplace. The government is supposed to ensure employers are following the law. But OSHA is under-resourced, and the job safety laws need updating.

Unions Hold Employers Accountable:

- Give workers a voice on the shop floor and in the halls of government
- Negotiate fair contracts at the bargaining table
- Prevent retaliation through collective action
- Support workplace safety investigations
- Advocate for stronger laws
- Build strong safety and health committees with workers at the table
- Support and represent workers filing OSHA complaints, whistleblower complaints, and workers’ compensation claims

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Nursing Home Workers Continue to Die from COVID-19

Approximately 18 nursing home workers continue to die each week from COVID-19.

Since June 2020, 3,009 nursing home workers have died.

The Fatality Rate for Workers Ages 65 and Older Is

2.3 TIMES HIGHER than the rate for all workers.

The Risk of Workplace Chemical Exposure

Occupational diseases caused by chemical exposures are responsible for an estimated:

50,000 DEATHS per year

190,000 ILLNESSES per year

Workplace Violence Is Foreseeable and Preventable

In 2021, 481 WORKERS were murdered on the job, a 23% increase from the previous year. This does not include the significant toll of serious workplace violence injuries.

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