

Workers International Memorial Day Saturday 28th April 2012

Remember the dead - Fight for the living!

Speakers, followed by a minutes silence for all those killed from work activities.

David Cameron announcing that he wants to kill off health and safety culture. What Cameron said was: "And there is something else we are doing: waging war against the excessive health and safety culture that has become an albatross around the neck of British businesses. So this coalition has a clear New Year's resolution: to kill off the health and safety culture for good.

We know what the government's culture represent for us, Our response must be: We need to kill off this obscene class culture that Cameron and his like represent. Let's turn our anger about this into positive action. Don't let them turn us back to conditions in history when 1,000s of workers were killed, diseased or made disabled each year because not enough health and safety culture and political will existed then to prevent this happening. Let's respond to the sick mentality of the likes of David Cameron by having a mass turn out for this year's Workers Memorial Day



10.30 am

Assemble at the statue of the Building Worker on Tower Hill next to the Tower of London and Tower Bridge.

A total of 171 people were killed at work in Great Britain last year, compared to 147 deaths during 2009/10. More than 24,700 workers also suffered a major injury. Construction had 50 deaths last year a 20% increase on the previous year. London's construction death toll doubled and was nearly half of all London deaths at 8 compared to 4 deaths the previous year.

Construction Safety Campaign members protest outside Floyd offices



**Watney Market
sewer disaster**

12.30 pm

Assemble at the Clock Tower Watney Street Market Commercial Road London E1.

It's now over 20 years since three young workers were killed on 22th September 1990 in a horrendous incident at Watney Street Market east London. David Richardson (aged 19), his brother Paul Richardson (aged 17), and Steve Hammond (aged 32) died when they were intoxicated by fumes in the sewer where they had been sent to work. Fellow worker Paul Barker (aged 20) was the only one of the four to survive the hydrogen sulphide gas in the sewer. At the court case the Magistrate had asked the company what safety equipment they had. "None" he said "not even a rope"

Electricians beat employers and show us the way forward

The recent victory of rank and file electricians over 8 major construction companies is a major achievement not just over pay but also for workers being able to say no to unsafe conditions at work. The employers had been determined to tear up terms and conditions and slash pay by imposing a new agreement called BESNA which would have meant a cut in wages by 35 percent and introduced new unskilled grades. However they never expected the reaction from electricians across Britain who had been protesting, occupying and striking unofficially for the last six months. The electricians' determined campaign has humbled huge corporations – and at the centre has been rank and file workers' organisation. The lesson is simple militant tactics win.

Vote for Ken Livingston as London Mayor

On 3rd May 2012 up to five million Londoners will vote to elect the Mayor of London. During the electricians dispute Ken Livingston said he would bar the eight companies from any construction work if elected, while we need to back Ken he must put into action his verbal opposition to the cuts directed by the government against the health and safety of Londoners.

Background to this year's WMD

The government are hell bent on reversing what little health and safety protection we have in the U.K. There are some obvious connections between the government's attempts at wholesale dismantling of NHS when most health and safety and medical organisation professional bodies oppose these changes, that's not surprising as increases to industrial accidents disease will demand more NHS treatment and not less.

The decision to end the registration of cranes which came out of the Lofstedt review is an insult to the families who had lost their loved ones as a result of the use of dangerous cranes. Also the decision to look at Work at Height Regulations (and associated guidance) so as to: "not go beyond what is required by the relevant EU directive", is a warning to be prepared for a watering down of these regulations.

The government's excuses being made for cuts in health and safety are false as they claim that Britain's health and safety is one of the best in the world. The truth is that up to 1,500 are killed in work related incidents; up to 50,000 die due to work-related illnesses. The HSE only report a fraction of those killed by work each year. When they say 'Only 171 killed by work' last year does not make it true and the UK Statistics Authority states that the 'HSE does not produce an overall figure for work-related fatalities in Great Britain.' There is less regulation now than 40 years ago; less time required by employers; less inspection of workplaces – only once in 38 years, only 1 in 13 major and fatal injuries even investigated; less prosecutions: down 50% over 10 years. They now intend to go further as the 35% cut to the HSE budget will mean even fewer inspections and prosecutions. The government's claim that workplace compensation culture is rife is a lie. The truth is that less than 10% of workers made ill, injured and the families of those killed by work; get any sort of compensation at all.

Workers are made ill and killed every day due to employer's failings. Those workplaces with trade unions and safety representative's have half as many injuries as those which do not, that is why workers must get more involved, come forward join a trade union and become trades union safety reps, oppose the government and its attacks on workers health and safety - it's only our actions that will save lives and prevent damage to health.

This year Workers Memorial Day is on Saturday 28th April. Join us and attend.

Construction Safety Campaign

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