

GOOD JOBS. SAFE JOBS.

Give Workers a Voice for a Change

ON APRIL 28, the unions of the AFL-CIO observe Workers Memorial Day to remember those who have suffered and died on the job and to renew the fight for safe workplaces. The toll of workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths is enormous. Each year thousands of workers are killed and millions more injured or diseased because of their jobs.

After eight years of neglect and inaction by the Bush administration, the challenges are great. The economy is in shambles, major hazards remain unaddressed and many workers lack basic protections and rights. But now we have the opportunity to change the direction of the country, to strengthen job safety protections and to make sure workers' voices are heard.

More than three decades ago, Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act, promising every worker the right to a safe job. Unions and our allies have fought hard to make that promise a reality—winning protections that have saved hundreds of thousands of lives and prevented millions of workplace injuries.

On Workers Memorial Day, we will continue that fight. We will fight to create good jobs in this country. We will fight for the freedom of workers to form unions, to have a voice and bargain for safe jobs, respect and a better future. We will demand that the country fulfill the promise of safe jobs.



MOURN FOR THE DEAD. FIGHT FOR THE LIVING.

OBSERVE WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY • APRIL 28 • AFL-CIO

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY • APRIL 28 • 2009

DECADES OF STRUGGLE BY WORKERS AND THEIR UNIONS have resulted in significant improvements in working conditions. Eight years of neglect and inaction by the Bush administration have eroded safety and health protections. Now with a new administration that is on workers' side, we have the opportunity to change the direction of the country and chart a new course. It is time to organize, take action and fight for:

- Protection under the Occupational Safety and Health Act for millions of workers, including public-sector workers and flight attendants, who are not covered by the job safety law.
- Stronger criminal and civil penalties for companies that put workers in serious danger and repeatedly break job safety laws.
- New workplace safeguards for long-recognized hazards such as silica and new hazards that are emerging, including the threat of pandemic flu.
- Measures to protect workers from ergonomic hazards that still cripple and injure more workers than any other workplace hazard.
- Increased attention to the safety and health of Hispanic and immigrant workers who are being killed on the job in record numbers.
- Stronger protections for miners, including tighter standards for coal dust to protect against Black Lung.
- The right for workers to have a voice on the job, and to freely choose to join a union and bargain without corporate interference or intimidation.

What You Can Do on Workers Memorial Day

- Hold a candlelight vigil, memorial service or moment of silence to remember those who have died on the job and to highlight job safety problems in your community and at your workplace.
- Organize a rally to highlight the job safety and health problems in your community or at your workplace and how the union is fighting to improve protections.
- Create a memorial at a workplace or in a community where workers have been killed on the job.
- Distribute workplace fliers and organize a call-in to members of Congress during lunch times or break times. Tell your members of Congress to support stronger OSHA and mine safety protections and laws, and to pass the Employee Free Choice Act to restore workers' freedom to join unions and bargain.
- Hold a public meeting with members of Congress in their home districts. Bring injured workers and family members who can talk firsthand about the need for strong safety and health protections and the right to join a union. Invite local religious leaders and other allies to participate in the meeting.

For additional information or to order materials, contact:

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To order materials, visit www.afclcio.org/shop or call 202-637-5024.