

GOOD JOBS. SAFE JOBS. FOR ALL.

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 are injured or diseased because of their jobs.

Our fight for safe jobs has gotten harder because for more than seven years the Bush administration has refused to act. Instead, at the behest of corporate interests, the administration has moved to roll back and weaken protections. Voluntary compliance has been favored over new protective standards and enforcement. Progress has ground to a halt and may be reversing. Many workers have little or no protection, and major hazards remain unaddressed.

This year, with the election, there is an opportunity to change the direction of the country and make workers' issues a priority.

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 thousand 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 and to guarantee health care for all. We will fight for the freedom of workers to form unions and, through their unions, to speak out and bargain for safe jobs, respect and a better future. We will demand that the country fulfill the promise of safe jobs. For all.

MOURN FOR THE DEAD. FIGHT FOR THE LIVING.

OBSERVE WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY • APRIL 28 • AFL-CIO

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY • APRIL 28, 2008

DECADES OF STRUGGLE BY WORKERS and their unions have resulted in significant improvements in working conditions. But the fight to protect workers must continue. We must demand strong enforcement of job safety laws, defend the gains we have won and push forward to address problems that remain:

- Millions of workers, including public-sector workers and flight attendants, have no protection under the Occupational Safety and Health Act.
- Companies that repeatedly break job safety laws—killing workers—face only weak penalties.
- Workplace standards are out of date and inadequate.
- Many long-recognized hazards have not been addressed, and new workplace hazards that emerge get no attention.
- Ergonomic hazards still cripple and injure more workers than any other workplace hazard.
- Latino and immigrant workers are being killed on the job in record numbers.
- Coal mine catastrophes and deaths continue, while needed new protections are delayed.
- Nine million health care workers and responders face unique risks with the threat of a flu pandemic.

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 workplaces or in communities where workers have been killed on the job.
- Distribute workplace fliers and organize a call-in to congressional representatives during lunch times or break times. Tell your members of Congress to co-sponsor the Protecting America's Workers Act (S. 1244, H.R. 2049) and to support stronger OSHA and mine safety protections.
- 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. Invite local religious leaders and other allies to participate in the meeting.

For additional information or to order materials, contact:

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