



Windrush Millennium Centre 70 Alexandra Road Manchester
M16 7WD 0161 636 7557 mail@gmhzards.org.uk

Safety Reps Guide to:

International Workers Memorial Day 28 April 2012:
"A day of Action To Defend Health and Safety"

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

**Union workplaces
are safer workplaces!**

MAKE SURE MEMBERS KNOW ABOUT IT!

WMD was made an official day by the government in 2010 due to our campaigning!

When it is: **Saturday 28th April 2012**

What it's for: **Our day to fight like hell for our lives & health and that of our families and friends**

Where it is: **In your town, in your TUC region, on your streets! In Manchester!**

Discuss the purpose of WMD with members:

1 Remember the Dead—all those killed simply for going to work to earn a living are not publicly remembered on any other day.

2 Fight for the Living—demand workers' health and safety is protected to stop us being killed injured or made ill in what are almost always avoidable incidents and failures of management.

On WMD we publicise the truth: that thousands are killed at work every year, why they are killed and how this can be stopped. 2.3 million people are killed by work globally—more than in war— in Great Britain about 1,300 are killed in work-related incidents and up to 50,000 in work-related illnesses in G.B. each year. See <http://gmhzards.files.wordpress.com/2011/06/gmhc-stats-updated-february-2012.doc>

WHY WE ARE FIGHTING FOR OUR LIVES ?

The Hazards Campaign has been running the 'We Didn't Vote to Die at Work Campaign' since this government started its attacks on workers health and safety on 2010. Now we have the Prime Minister declaring war on health and safety, calling it a 'burden on business' a 'mill stone', a 'monster' and making it his New Year's Resolution to 'kill of health and safety culture'! Therefore the TUC has declared this 28th April '**A day of Action to Defend Health and Safety**'. The TUC briefing says:

'There has never been a more worrying time for health and safety. For almost 40 years there has been a political consensus around the importance of regulation that protects all workers. That has begun to fall apart.'

Despite all the evidence from three reviews (Young, Lofstedt and Red Tape Challenge), that there is no 'over-regulation', or 'burden on business', no 'compensation culture', and that the cost of poor health and safety falls mainly on those harmed, their

families and the state –us!– not the employers, the government is already reducing regulation and slashing enforcement that protects us. Already the HSE recorded deaths in 2010/11 are up 16% on the year before, and the HSE itself admits that "*the expected 'lower level of enforcement' would mean a consequent decrease in health and safety standards throughout Great Britain with ensuing cost to society*".

TUC resources: <http://www.tuc.org.uk/wmd>
Leaflets, posters, bulletins

SO, WE NEED TO ACT ON 28th APRIL 2012
Tell government: We didn't Vote to Die at Work!

Organise members to take part in a WMD event near you, taking banners, placards and wreaths see: <http://www.tuc.org.uk/workplace/tuc-20489-f0.cfm> ; NW events on Resources sheet
Manchester event flyer: <http://gmhzards.files.wordpress.com/2012/02/wmd-manchester-flyer-final.pdf>

Lobby your MP in the run-up to WMD, see list of G.Mcr. MPs

Write to Cameron, & Grayling H&S minister in support of health and safety and against any cuts

Inform your members using the resources

Obtain free posters, leaflets and statistics, buy ribbons, car and lapel stickers, FACK DVDs, from resources mail@gmhzards.org.uk

If there aren't any events in your area, consider organising one:

Hold a simple public meeting with speakers addressing the issues, and lay flowers, have one minutes silence; invite workers and trade unionists; send a letter or press release to local press inviting them, and families of those harmed by work.

Or do something more exciting!

We Didn't Vote to Die at Work Campaign: <http://www.hazards.org/votetodie>, and leaflet: <http://gmhzards.files.wordpress.com/2011/06/updated-wdvtaw-leaflet-february-2012.pdf>

For more information contact GMHC,
mail@gmhzards.org.uk