

THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTACK ON WORKPLACE SAFETY IS A **DEADLY** MISTAKE

STOP

IT YOU'RE

KILLING

**WE DIDN'T VOTE
TO **DIE AT WORK****

US 

WWW.HAZARDS.ORG/VOTETODIE

Regulations don't kill jobs-lack of regulation kills workers!

We believe it is every workers' human right to come home alive and unharmed from work. This government is making work even more dangerous by attacking the protection of workers as never before: slashing enforcement, cutting HSE budget by 35% & Council EHOs by 28%, cutting proactive inspections by a third, implementing HSE Fee For Intervention, closing HSE Info-line, and making it harder to contact HSE; using Professor Lofstedt's review to justify halving regulations, to stop counting occupational illness and injury, converting ACoPs to guidance, and wiping work-related illness off the agenda. Government says modern work doesn't harm many people, most workplaces are 'low risk/hazard', our health and safety is a 'burden on business', it costs employers far too much and prevents jobs creation. It's all lies! We say:

" **We didn't vote to die at work**", so
"Stop it, you're killing us!"

Lie No.1: Health and Safety in Britain is one of best in world and very few people now hurt by modern work.

TRUTH: over 1,300 people are killed in work related incidents, up to 50,000 die due to work-related illnesses, and millions made ill by work EVERY YEAR; Britain only 30 out of 176 countries for occupational safety and health performance; we have more work-related ill-health now than ever according to experts .
<http://www.gmhazards.org.uk/Whole%20story%202009-10%20update.doc>

Lie No. 2: Health & safety is over enforced & over-bureaucratic.

TRUTH: There's less regulation now than 40 years ago, less paper work, less time required by employers; less spot inspection of workplaces—now only once in 45 years **after Grayling cuts**; less investigations: only 1 in 20 major and fatal injuries even investigated; less prosecutions, down 50% over 10 years, and in 98% of major injuries there is no enforcement action against the employer.

Lie No. 3: Most workplaces are low/risk hazard Only major hazard sites, nuclear, construction, waste & recycling and foundries are classed as high risk. Everything else is 'low risk/hazard' 'so no need for health and safety 'that's designed for factories'.

TRUTH: You may be less likely to be killed or physically injured—except in farming, quarries, docks- but workers face musculo-skeletal risks, violence from customers and pupils, and stress-related illnesses caused by bullying, harassment, long hours and excessive workloads, plus exposure to asbestos and other carcinogens like shift work. Risk assessment is proportionate, takes account of the different hazards in workplaces and doesn't require the same response as on construction sites or in factories. Only a fool would classify docks, farming, quarries, transport, hospitals and the whole of public sector as 'low risk/hazard' see [http://www.hazards.org/safetyin the dock](http://www.hazards.org/safetyin%20the%20dock)

Lie No. 4: Compensation culture is rife.

TRUTH: Less than 10% of workers made ill, injured and the families of those killed by work, get any sort of compensation at all, research show all claims down except for road traffic incidents.

Lie No 5: Health and safety costs too much

TRUTH: Good health and safety saves employers and state money. Poor health and safety costs at least £40 billion EVERY YEAR and who pays? You do – workers and their families pay in heartbreak and poverty, we/state pay via health and benefit costs but the employers who cause the damage pay less than 25%! Their crimes are a burden on us.

Lie No.6: Health and safety is only common sense, we can do away with laws and enforcement and trust employers to do the right thing.

TRUTH: Workers are made ill, injured and killed every day due to employers failing to manage health and safety. All the evidence shows what works is clear laws, strictly enforced to protect workers from ignorant, non-compliant negligent employers. What also works is trade union organisation & safety reps which reduces injuries by 50%. So join a trade union, or if you are in a union become a safety rep.

Fight Back

Lobby your MP & government ministers— use Hazards Campaign Quiz;

Write to local press on value of good health& safety, trade union safety reps role in saving lives & intolerable burden on workers and their families due to negligent employers;

Organise locally and nationally; join the 'We didn't Vote to Die at Work' Campaign on Facebook : <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/group.php?gid=123746101003963>;

keep updated with Hazards magazine: <http://www.hazards.org/votetodie/>;

Use Families Against Corporate Killers DVD 'Face the FACKS: the human cost of workplace killing' to your members, mates, employers, £10 from mail@gmhazards.org.uk.

HSE provisional & fractional figs—less than 1% of real total—are up for 2 years of coalition rule: 175 workers killed in GB in 2010/11, 173 in 2011/12, up 19% on 09/10 with a 22% rise in construction. Cuts in enforcement, regulation & proactive inspections killing now!

