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**Safety Reps Guide to:
International Workers Memorial Day 28 April 2015:
“Save lives: Put hazardous substances out of work!”**

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

**Union workplaces
are safer workplaces!**

MAKE SURE MEMBERS KNOW ABOUT IT!

The UK government made WMD an official day in 2010. *This is our day to tell our stories about our work, how it hurts us and how it can be better.*

When it is? **Tuesday 28th April 2015**

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 Albert Square, Manchester!**

Some activities will be held on the Friday or Saturday before WMD, and we want the issue raised in workplaces before and after the day itself.

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—to 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: in GB thousands are killed at work every year, why they are killed and how this can be stopped by union organisation, employers' compliance with the law ensured by strict government enforcement.

2.3 million people are killed by work globally—more than in war. Each year in GB up to 1,400 killed in work-related incidents & up to 50,000 in work-related illnesses.

WHY WE ARE FIGHTING FOR OUR LIVES ?

Hazards Campaign 'set up *We Didn't Vote to Die at Work Campaign*' in 2010 as government began its attacks on workers health and safety. We upped it to '*Stop it You're Killing us!*' as government claimed H&S is a 'burden on business' but this is a lie, it's a burden on workers and the public purse, so we then reclaimed regulation with "*We Love Red Tape it's better than bloody bandages.*" Now we need to make sure **WE DON'T VOTE TO DIE** in the General Election on 7th May.

WE NEED TO ACT ON 28th APRIL 2015

Tell government to stop killing us and making us sick and to **#Put hazardous substances out of work by enforcing COSHH Regs; #Put cancer out of work!**

Carry out an inspection at work, identify all substances, ensure they are COSHH assessed, if any are hazardous to health—such as carcinogens or reproductive and mutagenic toxins - then your employer must use hierarchy of prevention—eliminate, substitute, collective protection, and only as a last resort use PPE.

Organise members to take part in a WMD event near you, taking banners, placards and wreaths see TUC listing www.tuc.org.uk/workersmemorialday NW events on GMHC Resources sheet Manchester event: 12 noon Albert Square;

Lobby your MP in the run-up to WMD and General Election on 7th May.

Use **Hazards Campaign 13 step election guide: Whatcha gonna do?** www.hazards.org/votetodie to demand good health and safety for all workers;

Inform your members using the resources; **Obtain free posters, leaflet, national and local statistics**, buy ribbons, car and lapel stickers, and FACK DVDs, from mail@gmhazards.org.uk

Hold a one minutes silence at work, wear purple ribbons, give out leaflets;

If there are no events in your area, consider organising one with speakers addressing the issues to both *Remember the Dead & Fight for the Living* themes, invite workers, trade unionists and families of those killed at work locally. Lay flowerers, use lighted candles or empty shoes to represent those killed at/by work;

Send a letter/press release to local press inviting them and publicising the harm done by work;

Ask for flags to be lowered on public buildings. Plant trees, set up benches, plaques;

Or do something more exciting and tell us!

For more information: Workers Memorial Day Manchester 2015 Facebook Group. **and contact GMHC:** mail@gmhazards.org.uk www.gmhazards.org.uk

