

WHY WE PUT TOOLS DOWN FOR WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

On 28 November 2014, Jorge Castillo-Riffo, a construction worker in Adelaide, suffered crush injuries to his head, neck and back while using a scissor lift on site. Jorge was one of 188 workers killed that year.

In Victoria, a fellow construction worker, Shane Millard, had noted the moving "Put Your Bats Out" tribute to cricketer Phil Hughes (also killed at work), and posted the following tribute to his facebook page.



"Rest In Peace Jorge Castillo-Riffo. I did not know him personally but in our industry when someone dies on the job it does affect everyone. Unfortunately for him, and for most people, he did not meet his end playing a sport he loved surrounded by team mates. He died painfully, alone.

So some people are putting out their cricket bats for Phil Hughes, a wonderful tribute to a young talented cricketer. I'm putting out my tools, hat & boots for Jorge. RIP."

Shane's facebook post inspired union members around the country to do the same for International Workers Memorial Day in 2015.

Then OHS reps received a call from Zola in grade 3 at Cranbourne Park Primary School. She had heard about the International Workers Memorial Day tributes and wanted to ask her school to join in, but didn't have tools or a construction helmet.

So we asked her to put her pencil case out. She did - in fact, her whole class did! This was bigger than just construction workers now - everyone could take a moment to think about occupational health and safety.



Join in with millions of people around the world by holding an International Workers Memorial Day event in your workplace

HOW TO RUN A TOOLS DOWN EVENT

1

Talk to your boss

Talk to your employer about running an event at your workplace (there is a formal request letter in this kit if you think that is necessary).

Staff meetings about health and safety are good for business - everyone wants a healthy and safe workplace.

Employer's OK received

2

Decide where, when & what

Choose Location and time. Consider a space that will accommodate the expected amount of people, and whether you'll need chairs, or audio equipment etc.

At 11am, workers all over the world observe a moment of silence for International Workers Memorial Day, but choose a time that will work best for the majority of your colleagues. Write down the event location and time on your posters!

Posters completed

3

Build support in your workplace

Now speak to your colleagues - either at a staff meeting, or just in your tea room.

They may not be aware that Australians are still regularly killed and injured at work. If someone in your workplace has a personal safety story (a "near miss", or an injury they sustained) ask them to share it at the Workers Memorial day meeting.

Once you've spoken to people, put up posters around your workplace as a reminder.

Colleagues informed

4

Hold your event!

You can either follow the event running order included in this kit, or decide on your own. But make sure you include 1 minute's silence for people who have been killed at work, and a discussion of how to make your workplace safer!

Make sure you take a photo and upload it to social media with #ToolsDown - to show your international solidarity, and help raise awareness!

Meeting held

Photo posted with #ToolsDown and/or #IWMD

