

Health and Safety Bulletin

Inside this issue:

- **Lone Working** - newly revised UNISON guide.
- **Update on International Workers Memorial Day 2009** - including second UNISON poster and a new flyer (both attached with paper version of this bulletin).
- **National Hazards Conference 2009** - joining details with application form attached (paper copies of this bulletin only).
- **National Work-Stress Network Conference** - application form and joining instructions.

Newly Revised Guide on Lone Working

UNISON's guide, *Working Alone* (stock no. 1750), has just been revised and is aimed at safety reps with members who work alone, but will also be of interest to lone working members. The guide has been developed to help safety reps tackle the health and safety issues, and makes it clear what is expected from an employer in terms of preventing and controlling risks associated with lone working. The guide also contains checklists which can be used to assess the steps an employer has taken, and a draft questionnaire which a branch can use to survey their members.

If you'd like a copy, either download it from the web at: www.unison.org.uk/file/A227.pdf or contact UNISON's Communications Unit – see "How to Order the new UNISON materials" on page four below.

Update on Workers Memorial Day 2009

Across the UK preparations are ongoing towards International Workers Memorial Day (IWMD), taking place on 28 April. The fact that we've had to produce a second print run of UNISON posters, doubling what we produced last year, demonstrates the rise in interest.

Updated UNISON poster and new flyer for IWMD.

Our second poster (still with the same stock number, 1288) is purple and includes reference to the minutes silence at 12:00 on IWMD. This year we've also produced a flyer as a stock item (no. 2746) with space to give contact details about a local event for IWMD. Branches may use the flyer to publicise IWMD, the UNISON campaign for the Day to be formally recognised as a national day of remembrance, and any local events. You could hand out the flyer at any event you organise or attend, in advance to members and colleagues to give them notice, or on an exhibition/campaign stall if you're organising one for the Day. A copy of both is attached, as is an order form and details of alternative ways to order - see "How to Order the new UNISON materials" on page four below. Alternatively, you can download them from the UNISON website. Go to: www.unison.org.uk/safety/pages_view.asp?did=4783.

ITUC Theme for IWMD

Details came out too late for inclusion within the special feature of the recent *Health & Safety Organiser*, but the ITUC theme for IWMD this year is "Good Occupational Health for all Workers." This is the same as last year and enables the specific focus for campaigns to be decided locally; fits within the slogan for the Day, "Remember the Dead: Fight for the Living"; and supports our campaign for the Day to be formally recognised as a national day of remembrance. Recognition of IWMD as a national day of remembrance will help to bring about the cultural change required so that work related ill-health, injury, and death are no-longer seen as tragic but acceptable.

EDMs on IWMD – get your MP's to support them.

In the last issue of *Health & Safety Organiser* (March 2009) we publicised EDM 695 on IWMD and asked UNISON safety reps and branch safety officers to write to or email their MP and ask them to support it. EDM 695 asks the government to reaffirm the right of all workers to work in a safe and healthy workplace, and calls on it to officially recognise IWMD as a day of national remembrance.

More recently, a further EDM has been submitted on IWMD. EDM 1032 also calls on the government to recognise IWMD, noting: that 19 other nations recognise and commemorate the Day; that the Day is supported by ceremonies and services in many towns across the UK; and the sad fact of work-related deaths, ill-health, and injury. It goes on to state that formally recognising the Day will pay tribute to those who have suffered and will highlight the need for better safety and protection at work.

You can find the EDMs in full at <http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/>. If you don't know who your MP is, or how to get in touch with them, go to: <http://findyourmp.parliament.uk/commons/> or www.writetothem.com. If you don't have internet access, your local council should be able to advise you of who he or she is.

Case Studies Wanted

We still want to gather details of case studies to show that IWMD and health and safety is not about red tape, bureaucracy, busy bodies, and the nanny state; but instead, that it is about preventable harm to hard working people, and misery and poverty for them and their families.

It is a sad fact that most of the media and people in general only become interested in a cause or event when there is a human tragedy, especially one they can relate to.

So if you've got a story you'd like to share, about you, a family member, a work mate, or some other UNISON member, then contact Vincent Borg at: y.borg@unison.co.uk or on: 020 7551 1709. It doesn't have to be long or complex, and it will remain anonymous unless you or the individual/family concerned say otherwise.

Further Information

For more information about the Day, the UNISON campaign, and what you, your branch, activists, and/or members can do, see the last issue of *Health & Safety Organiser*, and the webpages for the Day. Go to: www.unison.org.uk/safety/pages_view.asp?did=4783.

Hazards Conference 2009

The 20th National Hazards Conference takes place between **10 - 12 July** at the University of Manchester. The focus of Hazards Conference is on improving workplace health and safety via the key set of demands, the Hazards Charter. Delegates contribute to the Charter, develop strategies for organising on health and safety and dealing with hazards, and network with other safety reps. There is plenty to interest everyone, and of those attending last year, 41% were from UNISON. As always, it is being organised on a not-for-profit basis on behalf of the National Hazards Campaign.

To apply for a place on the Conference fill in and return the attached application form, ASAP to: Hazards 2009, at the address given. For further copies, please photocopy the attached or download it from:

www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/hazardsconference/haz_conference_2009_application_for_m.pdf. Make sure your workplace safety reps don't miss out!

Correction! Please note that there is an error within the application form. Whilst the titles to the campaigning debates are correct, the text giving the content is not. When passing the application form on to anyone else, please ensure that they also get the loose correction slip with in, or refer them to the website above.

How to Order the new UNISON materials

You can download most UNISON health and safety guides, posters, leaflets and more from the web at: www.unison.co.uk/safety. Paper copies of our new and revised materials can be ordered from the Communications Unit – use the order form below; or go to the online catalogue: <http://www.unison.org.uk/catalogue>, email: stockorders@unison.co.uk, or tel: 020 7551 1481; quoting the documents' title, the stock no., and the other information requested below.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO:

Communications Unit, UNISON, 1 Mabledon Place, London, WC1H 9AJ.

From:.....

BRANCH NAME:

BRANCH NUMBER: Tel:

	STOCK NO.	QUANTITY
Item title: Workers Memorial Poster 2009	1288	
Workers Memorial 2009 Flyer	2746	
Working Alone - safety rep guide	1750	

THIS IS YOUR ADDRESS LABEL –PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY

Name:

UNISON Branch:

Address:

.....

.....

..... Postcode:.....



Return order form to:
 Greater Manchester Hazards Centre, Windrush Millennium
 Centre, 70 Alexandra Road, Manchester, M16 7WD.
 Tel: 0161 636 7557. Fax: 0161 636 7556.
 Email: mail@gmhzards.org.uk

IWMD Ribbons and Stickers Order

Date: *For Office Use*

Name: *date sent:*

Organisation: *paid:*

Address:

.....

.....Postcode:



Workers Memorial Day 'Forget-Me-Knot' Ribbons

Number required:

Price: Single ribbons @ **30p** each **plus** SAE/postage £.....

2 – 99 ribbons @ **30p** each **inc.** postage £.....

100 and over @ **25p** each **inc.** postage = £25.00 per 100 £.....

Total: £.....

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



Workers Memorial Day Car Stickers

Size 210mm x 60mm

Number required:

Price: Single stickers @ **£1.00** each **inc.** P+P £.....

2-10 stickers @ **50p** each **inc.** postage £.....

11 to 100 @ **25p** each **inc.** postage £.....

Bulk orders negotiable – tel: 0161 636 7557

Total: £.....

Combined Total for ribbons and stickers: £.....

It would be helpful if you could enclose the payment with your order. However, if this is difficult for you to do, please send the order without payment, and we will invoice you.

Please make cheques payable to 'Greater Manchester Hazards Centre Ltd'

Annual Conference**Stress – the 21st Century Epidemic?****Hillscourt Conference Centre, Rednal, Nr Birmingham, Courtesy of NASUWT****Sat. 21 November 9.45 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. and Sun. 22, 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.**

This conference is aimed at Trades Union Shop Stewards, Health & Safety Representatives, Health & Safety and Human Resources Specialists, Stress Management Consultants

Stress remains rampant and growing

A 2008 survey conducted by the Samaritans confirmed that 38% of Britons cited work as one of their biggest stressors with over 68% reporting high levels of irritability and 56% losing sleep over their work-related worries. CBI figures report over 13.5million working days lost to work-related stress and associated illnesses, costing UK plc a staggering £3.7bn during 2006-07. 40% of respondents to the 2008 TUC Safety Rep Survey quoted Bullying Management Style as a major cause of stress.

New research looking at the improvement of management skills is nearing completion and will be the subject of discussion alongside information on how the EU is seeking to deal with increasing levels of stress throughout the wider community.

We hope also to hear from those who have been directly involved in stress-related situations at work and in pursuing their cases.

The Conference will provide an opportunity to hear from and discuss issues with speakers, attend a range of workshops on aspects of, and the handling of stress at work.

PROGRAMME OUTLINE**SATURDAY MORNING – panel of speakers with Q&A session to follow**

- Ian Draper – Stress Related Illness – the causes, effects, symptoms, costs and actions
- Dr Emma Donaldson-Feilder, HSE/CIPD Management Competencies research project
- Isabelle Schoemann, ETUC Researcher – the EU Framework on work-related health issues
- HSE Speaker OR TUC Speaker *details to be confirmed*
- Stress victim speaker OR a Safety Rep who has taken the issue up with Management - *details tbc*

SATURDAY AFTERNOON & SUNDAY MORNING

Workshops aimed at guiding Representatives in supporting members, gathering evidence of Stress, dealing with casework, and the pursuit of good management practices and commitment through workable in-house Stress Policy - full details to be confirmed in due course

- ** Supporting colleagues with stress-related illness
- ** Workplace Auditing
- Improving Management Style
- Gender and Stress
- Pursuing workplace action and policy against stress
- HSE Management Standards implementation
- Securing a Work-life Balance
- The effects of long-term absence on workers

** These two workshops will be repeated on Sunday morning to expand delegates' choices.

With an overnight stay in pleasant, comfortable rural surroundings to the SW of Birmingham, it is hoped that this weekend event will provide a wide range of networking opportunities for delegates.

Don't delay – Book NOW to avoid disappointment and get the benefit of discounted delegate fees. CLOSING DATE 31ST October '09

Please complete a *separate form for each delegate* and staple together if necessary. Photocopies are acceptable.
Please type or write clearly

NAME (BLOCK CAPITALS)	
CONTACT ADDRESS (BLOCK CAPITALS)	
	Postcode
TELEPHONE No.	
EMAIL	
ORGANISATION	
SPECIAL NEEDS (Please specify)	

	Totals
1 DAY DELEGATE (SATURDAY 21st November only) Full Rate £100.00 Unwaged Rate £40	£
RESIDENTIAL DELEGATE (SATURDAY 21st November and SUNDAY 22nd November) Includes accommodation on Saturday night Full Rate £160 Unwaged Rate £78 Deduct £6.00 if sharing a room	£
Non Residential Day Delegate Fee 2 days £110	
Optional extra B&B (FRIDAY 20th November if required) Single room £40 Shared room £36 , per person. NO Separate Unwaged Accommodation Fee	£
SUB TOTAL	£
Less Early Bird discount of 10% (If booking and payment received before 20th September 2009)	- £
FULL TOTAL	£

Complete this section if you have opted to share a room		
Name of person with whom you are sharing.		
Type of room	TWIN	DOUBLE
Is this person a delegate?	YES	NO

CANCELLATIONS POLICY: UP TO AND INCLUDING THE EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT CLOSING DATE, FULL REFUNDS [LESS AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF £10] WILL BE MADE. AFTER THAT DATE 75% REFUND ONLY WILL BE MADE UNLESS A CANCELLED PLACE IS FULLY FILLED BY ANOTHER NEW APPLICATION. NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE ONCE NUMBERS HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED WITH THE CONFERENCE CENTRE BY 31ST OCTOBER 2009.

COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS SHOULD BE SENT TOGETHER WITH CHEQUE(S)

PAYABLE TO UK NATIONAL WORK-STRESS NETWORK TO:-
LES ROBERTS, CONFERENCE SECRETARY, 33 OLD STREET, UPTON UPON SEVERN, WORCS WR8 0HN
EMAIL ADDRESS: UKWORKSTRESS@LIVE.CO.UK