



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

HAZARDS MAGAZINE

FIGHTING FOR YOUR LIFE

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**We've been Con-Dem- ed: Now we must fight for our lives!
Con-Dems cut Health and Safety enforcement by 35%
Join the Hazards 'We didn't vote to die at work' Campaign**

The coalition government is mounting an ideological assault on working people from cradle to grave using 'deficit reduction' as the excuse to make massive cuts in jobs, public services and welfare benefits. The poorest and most vulnerable are being made to pay the price for the banking crisis. Within this overall assault there is a massive threat to the safety and the health of workers in existing jobs and in any new ones that maybe created in what will inevitably be a race to the bottom. Government announced cuts to the enforcement of health and safety at work of 35% in the Health and Safety Executive budget and 26% for Local Authorities that will reduce the already poor state of policing of the workplace which kills, injures, and makes us ill at a rate never reported in the tabloid press.

No-one voted for the slashing of the most basic right to go to work safely and healthily and to come home alive and undamaged to your family at the end of the day. The cutting of health and safety is based on lies, apocryphal stories and straw man set up by David Cameron and Lord Young based on tabloid headlines not on facts, evidence or reality.

Lie No.1. Health and Safety in Britain is one of best in world and very few people now hurt by work.
TRUTH: up to 1,500 killed in work related incidents up to 50,00 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 in Maplecroft Risk Index report 2010; we have more occupational ill-health now than ever.

Lie No. 2. Health and safety has gone mad, it's over the top, 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— only once in 38 years now; less investigations: only 1 in 13 major and fatal injuries even investigated; less prosecutions: down 50% over 10 years and in 98% of major injuries there is no enforcement action taken against the employer at all.

Lie No. 3 Offices, shops, schools are 'non-hazardous'
TRUTH: You're less likely to be killed or physically injured but these workers face musculo-skeletal risks from working with computers, violence from customers and pupils, and a whole host of stress related illnesses caused by bullying and harassment, by long hours and excessive workloads.

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 and all reports show claims down except for road traffic accidents.

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 £30 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%!

Lie No.6. Health and safety is only common sense, we can do away with laws and enforcement
TRUTH: Workers are made ill and killed every day due to employers failing to manage health and safety and all the evidence shows what works is clear laws, strictly enforced to protect workers from ignorant, non-compliant and often criminally negligent employers.

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