The Occupational Safety and Health Act and the Mine Safety and Health Act promise workers the right to a safe job. Unions and our allies have fought hard to make that promise a reality—winning protections that have made jobs safer and saved lives.

But our work is not done. Each year, thousands of workers are killed and millions more suffer injury or illness because of their jobs. Many workplace hazards are unregulated. Workers who report dangerous conditions or injuries are fired or disciplined. Employers contract out unsafe work to try to avoid responsibility. At the same time, good jobs are disappearing, workers’ wages are stagnant and inequality is growing.

Business groups have launched an all-out assault on working people, seeking to roll back existing protections and rights, and to block new safeguards. We have fought back, joining with worker centers, local activists and other partners to defend and advance these hard-won gains.

We have worked to win a stronger coal dust standard for miners and a new rule to protect workers from deadly silica, which soon will be finalized, along with stronger anti-retaliation protections for workers who report job injuries. Next on our agenda are new safeguards on beryllium, infectious diseases and combustible dust.

On April 28, the unions of the AFL-CIO observe Workers Memorial Day to remember those who have suffered and died on the job and to renew the fight for safe jobs. This year we will come together to call for work in this country that is safe and healthy and pays fair wages. We will celebrate the victories won by working people and commit to fighting until all workers have the freedom to form unions without the threat of retaliation. Please join us.
DECADES OF STRUGGLE by working people and their unions have improved working conditions and made jobs safer. But business groups have launched an all-out assault on working people, seeking to turn back the clock and block all progress. We must push forward and continue our fight to:

- defend safety and health protections and workers’ rights from industry attacks;
- win new workplace standards for silica, combustible dust and infectious diseases;
- prohibit employer policies and practices that discourage reporting of workplace injuries;
- increase attention to the safety and health of Latino and immigrant workers who are at much greater risk of death and injury;
- pass the Protecting America’s Workers Act to provide OSHA protection for the millions of workers without it, stronger criminal and civil penalties for companies that seriously violate job safety laws, and improved anti-retaliation protections for workers who raise job safety concerns;
- ensure workers’ right to have a voice on the job, and to freely choose to form a union without employer interference or intimidation; and
- demand higher wages for workers through mobilizing, organizing, collective bargaining and legislative action.

WHAT YOU CAN DO ON WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

- Organize a rally to demand creation of safe jobs in your community.
- Hold a candlelight vigil, memorial service or moment of silence to remember those who have died on the job and highlight job safety problems at workplaces in your community.
- Conduct workshops to empower workers to report job safety hazards and exercise workplace rights. Invite union members, nonunion workers and community allies to participate.
- Create a memorial at a workplace or in a community where workers have been killed on the job.
- Hold a public meeting with members of Congress in their districts. Bring injured workers and family members who can talk firsthand about the need for strong safety and health protections, and the freedom to join a union. Invite local religious leaders and other allies to participate in the meeting.
- Invite the press to your Workers Memorial Day events to increase public awareness of the dangers workers face on the job.