



# Hazardous Times

## Greater Manchester Hazards Centre

### E-Newsletter

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Volume 3, Number 2

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Hazards Conference 2018 #Haz2018

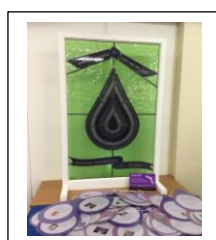
We have had a busy few months since the last newsletter, organising events in Manchester as part of the 150 year celebrations since the birth of the TUC, the International Workers Memorial Day Remembrance events and the National Hazards 2018 Conference. We have also been involved in several significant health and safety issues across the region and have taken our banners and spoken at several National events as well.

Our new leaflets have been welcomed: the leaflets which are aimed at giving solidarity support for care workers and fast food workers and also a sort of mini brown book which fits in a plastic wallet to hang on a lanyard.

## International Workers Memorial Day Events across the North West – April 28<sup>th</sup> #IWMD18

As part of our remembrance of workers who have been killed at work, we commissioned a stained glass window, which will be on permanent display in the Peoples History Museum in Salford, Manchester. The window was designed and made by Michael McNulty who donated his time for free.

Joan, Michaels partner has produced a film of the making of the window and the link to it is: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxub3pzJOSI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxub3pzJOSI)



We are organising an unveiling ceremony at the museum in October and hope that as many activists as possible can attend. More information will be available shortly.

## Conference – Hazards 2018

With a great line up of speakers and over 320 delegates, activists and workshop leaders, Hazards 2018 was always going to be an inspirational and important conference. On the Friday evening Steve Tomb passionately presented a case for the Grenfell Tower fire deaths to be regarded as Social Murder, Asli Odman from the Istanbul Workers Health and Safety Assembly spoke about the challenges of organising for health and safety in Turkey and Louise Taggart founder member of Families Against Corporate Killers spoke movingly about the death of her brother who was electricuted at work and said she wanted to make his life count and to stop anyone else suffering the way her family had.

On the Saturday we attended workshops, meetings, campaign meetings and networked with other trade union safety reps from different workplaces, sectors and industries.

The conference ended with a 'barn storming' plenary session with excellent, engaging and inspirational speakers: Kevin Rowan TUC organising, Audrey White on sexual harassment, Ali Waqaar a McStriker, Dave Smith Blacklists Support Group and finally Ian Hodson, President of BFAWU.

A full report with links to films, powerpoints and documents can be found on the Hazards Campaign website. [www.hazardscampaign.org.uk](http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk)

If anyone is interested in coming to the Hazards Conference in 2019 then details will





be posted on the Hazards Campaign website early in the new year.

There were many highlights from the conference and here are just some of the comments from new and returning delegates:

*It was my first conference and hopefully not my last. I loved it and can't wait to come back*  
*This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Hazards I've attended and can't wait for the 3<sup>rd</sup>*  
*Food was exceptionally good – catered for everyone*  
*First hazards conference – will be back and will bring others*  
*Very educational*  
*Shame this isn't a longer event – one day of workshops means you can't see most of what is on offer*  
*Thoroughly enjoyed the weekend + hope to come next year. There is so much still to learn*  
*First hazards experience did not disappoint + would definitely return again. A must for safety reps!*  
*Very inspiring*  
*First hazards conference – enjoyed it completely*  
*Feel inspired primarily because the awareness of all the work related deaths makes the job even more important to work toward prevention at all times*  
*See you next year x2*  
*Excellent opening plenary + better accommodation than in previous years*  
*Thank you for a great experience*  
*Safety reps are so important to our futures + it is vital that if possible we can promote young member to become health + safety reps*  
*Inspiring, helpful + friendly conference*  
*Useful + relevant*  
*Going to write to RMT + try to raise awareness about Hazards as people would benefit from coming to the conference*  
*Fabulous conference, great venue, great organisers, lovely campus staff – just terrific*  
*Having attending a lot of Hazards conference, some have been a little repetitive but the content this year was very original*  
*Accommodation was a lot cleaner*  
*Another excellent conference – keep it going hazards*

Reps Issues and Concerns raised with the Greater Manchester Hazards Centre:

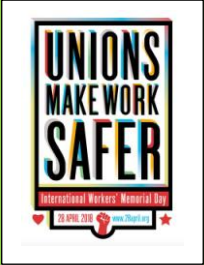
There have been many issues raised with GMHC over the last few months. Lots of reps concerned about the unacceptable pressures they face at work including: the pressure of a continually increased workload and unachievable targets they are allocated.

Workers are being put at risk because of this and trade union safety reps are struggling to address this with their employers. Please see below mental health in the workplace.

We became aware of the terrible working conditions that our firefighters faced during the recent moor fires. A public appeal had been made to supply water, clothing and other resources and we therefore made contact with them to see if we could intervene on their behalf or help in some other way. The firefighters were working in incredible heat, in the middle of the moors, without immediate adequate welfare facilities. Across the region in Merseyside the plight of the firefighters has been further undermined. A recent announcement by the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service said that Wallasey and Liverpool City centre fire stations would be down graded which means they will be closed at night time and firefighters mobilized from home on a 30 minute turn in time. This is on top of the cuts in fire engines, firefighters and closures or soon to be closed fire stations.

Another issue that was raised on one of the recent TUC courses was about migrant labour. Workers are looking at other vulnerable workers in their concerns about job insecurity, safety and low wages. Our view must be that our employers have a duty to ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of all their employees. That includes providing decent employment, at a decent rate of pay and that is secure. As a recent Hazards Magazine article says **'Workplace risks go up as your employment grade goes down, with a potentially devastating impact on health.'**  
<http://www.hazards.org/lowpay/>

These are just some of the issues being talked about by health and safety reps at meetings and training courses. Some of which will be explored in more detail below.



Mental Health in the Workplace

Mental health can be put at risk by the policies and practices of management in workplaces, just the same as physical health. Trade unions need to take a collective and direct approach to ensure that their management are meeting their duties under the Health and Safety at Work Act and the Management of Health Safety and Welfare Regulations.

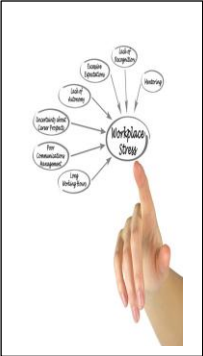
Our priority as Health and Safety Representatives should be to ensure our management are using the methodology, tools and information available on the HSE website, that where our management fail to do this we record all information, collate audit trails of where we have requested action and information and make this available to the health and safety enforcement officers. Although the HSE are training their officers in what management should do and what the required standards on workplace stress are, they are not yet enforcing it. So it is important that trade unions negotiate and establish good practices, challenge bad employment practices and share successes with other health and safety representatives.

Finally, it is important to avoid resilience training and other initiatives which concentrate on the individual rather than a collective approach.

- There are three main areas where trade unions should take direct action:
1. *Strategy for preventative work related stress and mental ill health*
  2. *Supporting individuals with mental ill health*
  3. *Providing a positive mental health environment*

1. Strategy for preventative work related stress and mental ill health

- Trade Unions to negotiate a strategy that includes:
- I. All Employees, Management and Trade Union reps should be trained in Mental Health Awareness
  - II. All Management and Trade Union reps should be trained in the HSE Stress Management Standards Approach
  - III. Set up a Stress Steering Group to take the work forward – see GMHC document 'setting up a stress steering group terms of reference'
- a. Gather data: existing information and commission more evidence if needed
  - b. Analyse results
  - c. Prioritise areas and allocate responsibilities
  - d. Decide who might be harmed and how:
  - e. Use The HSE Stress Management Standards to evaluate the main causes of harm. The Management Standards classify the



- principal causes of work-related stress into 6 key areas:
- i. Demands
  - ii. Control
  - iii. Support
  - iv. Relationships
  - v. Role
  - vi. Change
- (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/stress/index.htm>)
- f. Decide how the risks will be eliminated and controlled (actions and timescales)
  - g. Record all actions
  - h. Review periodically or when there is a change, incident or new process or building

**2. Supporting Individuals with Mental Ill Health**

- Trade Unions should negotiate with their employer to:
- a. Introduce a disability passport to record agreed individual needs work adjustments, which moves with the individual to all areas.
  - b. Individuals needing adjustments should be supported by their trade union representative in all meetings and it should be conducted by an employer's representative with required training.
  - c. Attendance at mental health consultations should be agreed.
  - d. Flexible working should be agreed following periods of absence and if required on a continuous basis
  - e. No-pressure periodic reviews should be introduced.

**3. Providing a positive mental health environment:**

- Trade Unions to negotiate with their employer to:
- a. Ensure everyone trained in mental health awareness
  - b. Encourage open conversations on mental health without reprisals
  - c. Any acts of victimisation or inappropriate behaviour must be acted on quickly
  - d. Ensure good working conditions, pay. Top factors of work related stress leading to mental ill health include:
    - i. Job insecurity
    - ii. Overwork
    - iii. Stress
    - iv. Poor Management and unfairness at work
    - v. Emotional labour
    - vi. Trauma
    - vii. Work related harm
    - viii. Hazardous exposures that affect your mental health
    - ix. Access to means(<http://www.hazards.org/suicide/suicidalwork.htm>)
  - e. Introduce flexible working to suit individual needs
  - f. Ensure management are trained in effective and supportive people management
  - g. Encourage all incidents of stress are recorded in the Accident book, investigated and findings shared with employees and their representatives
  - h. Further action of support should be introduced for serious incidents

Further Information:  
<http://www.hazards.org/stress/mentalhealth.htm>  
RISKS - <https://www.tuc.org.uk/mediasentre/register>  
[www.hse.gov.uk/stress](http://www.hse.gov.uk/stress)  
Greater Manchester Hazards Centre fact sheets on Stress – contact information below

**FACK - Families Against Corporate Killers**

To donate to support FACK's work please contact [mail@gmhazards.org.uk](mailto:mail@gmhazards.org.uk)

**HILDA'S BLOG - DEATH AT WORK TREND GOING UPWARDS YET DEADLY DEREGULATION STILL REMAINS GOVERNMENT OBSESSION**  
The latest [HSE provisional figures](#) for workplace fatal injuries in Great Britain show 144 fatally injured between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018 which is nine more lives lost in preventable incidents than the year before 2016/17.

Coming a year after the Grenfell fire, and just before the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Piper Alpha fire which killed 167 workers, the upward trend is worrying. The [Cullen Report](#) into the Piper Alpha disaster led to tighter regulations and enforcement of fire safety offshore. Health and safety regulations written in the blood of the Piper Alpha workers undoubtedly saved many lives over the years but the lessons were not learned across all industries and [could have prevented Grenfell](#) .

In fact the need for strong fire safety laws, standards and enforcement has been totally rejected by governments intent on cutting regulations on fire safety to spare the 'burden on business'. This obsession with deregulating has shifted the burden to us, to workers, and the residents of Grenfell and other high rise tower blocks

Work deaths were dropping steadily up to 2010 when the Tory/Lib Dem coalition turbo charged deregulation with the 'Red Tape Challenge' and attacks on HSE, but have plateaued since. Now the trend is going in wrong direction. Work deaths are going up while the government obsession with deregulation is just as strong and just as deadly. Anecdotal reports from offshore workers show they fear things are going backwards in terms of safety offshore, and fear that, as at Piper Alpha, profits are being put before workers' lives.

Significantly HSE's fatality figures show that 40% of the deaths were to workers aged 60 or over while this group only make up 10% of the workforce. The rate of fatal injury rises steeply from the 55-59 years age group, and is highest in the 65+ age group where it is almost five times the rate for all ages. This raises questions about the lack of management of risks to ageing workers, and also that the increase in state pension age means many more people will die at work. Agriculture which has the oldest workforce has the highest rate of fatalities at 18 times the average for all work. Waste and recycling has a fatality rate 16 times the average, and has a low level of unionisation which is known to make work safer, and employs a larger proportion of more vulnerable migrant workers. Construction still has a higher than average death rate at around four times the average and killed the largest number of workers at 38 for 2017/18. But HSE official '144 killed by work' is only the tip of the iceberg which we estimate at more like 140 a day dying from work! Hazards Campaign's



report The Whole Story explains that the 2017/18 144 worker deaths reported by the HSE plus another 100 members of the public is pretty horrifying but isn't even the full total of those killed while working, let alone all those killed by work illnesses and dying often years later. The HSE only counts those killed at work in incidents which are reportable to HSE and Local Authorities under RIDDOR. It excludes all those killed while at work on the roads, at sea and in the air – as their report makes clear in the *Technical Note* on page 13. It also excludes work-related suicides, which are not reportable under RIDDOR and are not even investigated. Although HSE records 100 members of the public killed, it does not add them to the total and report them. It does not include the 72 people killed at Grenfell arguably due to the work-activity of refurbishing which turned it into a death trap.

These HSE statistics only refer to fatalities in incidents at work, not due to illnesses, but they are frequently reported as a total death caused by work figure. To the totals of around 1,500 killed by work-related incidents, must be added the estimated 50,000 dying from disease caused by poor working conditions.

Evidence is piling up that shows what makes work safer and reduces deaths is strong unions, strict enforcement and strong, active unions. To reverse the upward trend in preventable deaths caused by work, the Hazards Campaign calls for the strict enforcement of laws and employers duties to workers, stronger laws, repealing of anti trade union laws and more rights for workers to know the risk they face, to enable participation in workplace health and safety, and the right to refuse dangerous work. The Hazards Campaign calls for an end to deregulation of the protective health and safety system which has been fully and publicly exposed as deadly by the Grenfell fire. We call for an end to the government enabled downward slide into a third world, informal precarious economy which is bad for workers, bad for the economy, everyone.

Every day this comes to about 140 people killed because of work.

Further information

In June, 2018 Louise Taggart was voted Most Influential Health and Safety Person at SHP Expo illustrates 'The Whole Story' in a soap box talk.

1. <https://www.shponline.co.uk/shps-most-influential-figures-in-health-safety-named-at-safety-health-expo/>
2. [https://www.facebook.com/louise.taggart.9/videos/10156465358169042/?comment\\_id=10156465389829042&notif\\_id=1529529857625956&notif\\_t=mentions\\_comment](https://www.facebook.com/louise.taggart.9/videos/10156465358169042/?comment_id=10156465389829042&notif_id=1529529857625956&notif_t=mentions_comment)
3. <https://www.facebook.com/louise.taggart.9/videos/10156336289549042/UzpfSTUyNTIyOTA0MTozMDYwNjExMjk0OTk0MTQ6MTA6MDoxNTMwNDI4Mzk5Oi02OTE2NTgwNjg0MDc1MDkzOTY2/ment>

**Hazards Blog 12.7.18 Offshore workers are at risk from operators disregarding post Piper Alpha regulations**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> July the names of all 167 workers killed in the Piper Alpha Explosion and fire 30 years again were read out in remembrance.



Thanks to Scottish Hazards for this list. We should know their names, speak their names, and while remembering them, fight like hell that others will never again be killed in similar way. However, regulations and safety lessons written in the blood of those 167 men killed in the Piper Alpha explosion have already been weakened and are being ignored, leaving current offshore workers at greater risk from hydrocarbon leaks, HCR. And Martin Temple Chair of HSE also says failure of other sectors to learn the lessons led to the fire at Grenfell.

30 years ago Piper Alpha was the worst fire in peace time, resulting from the rush for profit from oil taking all precedence over oil workers' lives without strong laws and enforcement in place to protect them. The direct consequence was that 167 were killed, 167 families devastated, 61 survivors and others were traumatised.

Following the Piper Alpha fire, Lord Cullen headed an inquiry and recommended many broad changes to the regulation of offshore drilling which are well laid out in the Scottish Hazards blog

Removing a conflict of interest by making the Health and Safety Executive, HSE, rather than the Department of Energy responsible for health and safety offshore, and the development of a 'safety case regime' similar to that in the nuclear industry were two chief recommendations of Lord Cullen. The first Offshore Installation (Safety Case) Regulations came into force in 1992 but by 2005 the duty to review the safety case every 3 years was relaxed to leave the safety case applying over the life of the installation, in the Offshore Installation (Safety Case) Regulations 2005. This weakening of the requirement was driven by oil industry leaders complaining of the myth of over-burdensome regulations and leaves offshore workers burdened by the risk of being killed on deteriorating rigs while oil prices decline and HCRs, with their risk of explosion and fire increase. The Elgin blowout was one such release that came "perilously close to disaster"

Chris Flint, HSE's Director of Energy Division, is so concerned he wrote in April this year to all offshore operators urging them to assess their operation and reflect on learning from incidents.

*"Every HCR is a safety threat, as it represents a failure in an operator's management of its risks. I recognise the steps the industry has taken to reduce the overall number of HCRs, however HCRs remain a concern, particularly major HCRs because of their greater potential to lead to fires, explosions and multiple losses of life. There have been several such releases in recent years that have come perilously close to disaster."*

'The letter requires operators to respond to HSE by 20 July 2018 with a summary of their improvement activities and plan arising from their self-assessment. The HSE has also committed to feeding back significant findings from the exercise to the industry later in the year.'

We await developments but note with alarm the lack of enforcement action taken or threatened. When Barry Stott, an offshore worker who was 3 years old when his father died on Piper Alpha, read the HSE warning he told the BBC:

*"How can that still be possible? I don't think there would be any other industry in the world where 30 years on from such a seismic disaster we were on the verge of the same thing happening again? That's not my opinion, that's what I'm reading, from the HSE and others. It's a growing concern for the whole city and the whole industry."*

Scottish Hazards notes that the OffShore Installation (Safety Case ) Regulations 2015 put a duty on operators to consult with safety reps on the safety case and 'to make arrangements to communicate national arrangements for anonymously reporting health and safety concerns.' While welcome, Scottish Hazards emphasises the reality that without clear evidence of strong enforcement by the HSE to ensure adherence to safety cases by operators and penalties for those who don't, workers cannot develop the confidence to report concerns.

But strong enforcement is exactly what we do not have. Due to slashing HSE budget by 50%, cutting inspector numbers, plus commercialising,



business-friendly measures to ensure health and safety watchdogs consider the business case before workers lives and health since 2010, lack of enforcement is rampant. Deregulation known now as 'Better regulation' runs across work sectors, offshore and onshore, covers everything from work, food, construction materials, electrical and other home appliances, and environmental pollution

The fact that 29 years after the worst peace time fire at Piper Alpha, there was the second worst fire at Grenfell Tower is about far more than failing to learn or forgetting the lessons of Piper Alpha. The lessons from the killing of 167 men have been deliberately attacked and undermined by the demands by oil business leaders that health and safety regulation enacted after the disaster are 'only pointless red tape' that is burdensome to their business and must be eradicated which has been acted upon by successive neoliberal governments as laid out in Hazards Magazine We must name the causes and consequences of this deadly behaviour as Dave Whyte does in 'The neoliberal bonanza from Piper Alpha to Grenfell.'

Hazards Campaigns calls for the reclaiming of regulation and enforcement to protect our health and lives as a social good, the mark of a civilised society and a complete rejection of deregulating for business interests, We also call for more rights and powers for workers to organise for better health and safety to participate, to be informed and consulted and the right to refuse work that put their lives and health at risk

TUC 150 years

At the heart of the formation of the Trade Union Congress 150 years ago, was the challenge to fight for better health, safety and welfare for workers. At the time young children were employed in the most brutal conditions and all workers worked long hours in health-destroying factories and jobs.

As part of the TUC 150 year celebrations in Manchester, we organised a training event 'You gotta fight for your right to safety' which was held in June at the birthplace of the TUC the Mechanics Institute.

We had some great speakers including the General Secretary of the TUC Francis O'Grady, Paul Holleran GMB NW Education and Health and safety officer, Kevin Rowan TUC National Organiser, Suzanne Humphreys Thompsons solicitors, Adam Lincoln UCU National Health and Safety Officer, Rachel Doyle Unison and Doug Russell USDAW National Health and Safety officer chaired the event and we launched a new leaflet on supporting care workers.

The care workers leaflet was the second in a series of leaflets aimed at health and safety reps giving solidarity support to vulnerable workers. This group of workers are difficult to reach. They work long hours on low pay, are discouraged by their employers from joining trade unions and many are exploited by their employers, bullied, facing unacceptable risks in the workplace and many are travelling between appointments without pay for their travelling time. There are huge health and safety issues around their employment and GMHC are pleased to work with Unison to support these workers. Workers who provide a valuable and often unrecognised service to our communities.



New leaflet: Safety Reps Guide

We have produced a new leaflet that is a sort of mini brown book that folds up and can be hung on a lanyard. We are encouraging health and safety reps to use the document. It contains information about inspections, risk assessments, facilities and time off for functions and training, challenging workplace stress and some important dates and useful links. We have a few left over from the Hazards Conference and if anyone would like some for their workplace then please contact me at [janet@gmhazards.org.uk](mailto:janet@gmhazards.org.uk) or 0161 636 7558



Grenfell Tower Fire 14.6.17: Over 12 months on, what progress?

On the 14<sup>th</sup> June we attended a vigil in Salford to commemorate and remember all those people who were killed in the Grenfell Tower fire. Hilda Palmer from GMHC read out the 72 names as a poignant reminder of the tragedy. Men, women, children, grand



parents, sons, daughters – each name was read out and each person remembered. In Salford there are still many blocks of flats shrouded in combustable cladding. Although the council is committed to removing and replacing it. In privately owned tower blocks, individuals are being asked to pay for the work, even though they were not aware of the fire risk when they moved in, nor would they expect that the building would be a potential death trap.

<http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/blog/the-government-is-guilty-of-breaching-human-rights-over-grenfell>

GMHC, FACK and the Hazards Campaign continue to speak on platforms making the links between what happened at Grenfell and the undermining of social protections at work, at home, in products, food and environmental safety. At the recent Hazards Conference we stood in solidarity with the victims of Grenfell at the end of the first plenary.

The public inquiry has begun to hear from firefighters about the situation they faced in the tower on the day of the fire. The Public Inquiry decided to hear from the firefighters who were first at the scene of the fire first and has placed them unfairly under scrutiny as the first witnesses. There is much concern about the nature of the questioning and why firefighters should be on the stand first. Their trauma at reliving the harrowing experience in the inquiry has been hard to witness. Especially when we all know that the combustable cladding was not their responsibility, that the building work that was carried out was not their responsibility, that the



fire safety inspections were not carried out by them and the decision to put people with disabilities in upper floor flats was not their decision. The fire fighters put their lives on the line, to rescue people. They lay exhausted at the bottom of the tower, trying to rationalise what they had witnessed. These emergency workers deserve our utmost respect and most definitely not any condemnation. Especially as we now know, the residents of the tower and surrounding area, campaigned and argued with local council officials and building management about the state of the building work that was going on in the tower in recent years.

## Mesothelioma deaths amongst school staff

Mesothelioma is a disease which develops from exposure to asbestos. See the JUAC statement

<http://www.teachers.org.uk/sites/default/files2014/mesothelioma-deaths-among-school-staff-1980-2016.pdf>

More than 363 school teaching professionals have died of mesothelioma in Britain since 1980. 249 of those have died of mesothelioma since 2001. At least 165 higher and further education teaching professionals have died from mesothelioma since 1980.

Between 2003 and 2016, statistics record that 8 school secretaries, 8 nurser nurses, 29 teaching assistants and 21 school midday assistants died of mesothelioma.

Almost 90% of schools in England contain asbestos.

<http://www.asbestosexposureschools.co.uk/pdfnewslinks/LAs%20schools%20containing%20asbestos.pdf>

JUAC are campaigning for the safe removal of asbestos from all our schools.

## Enough is Enough! It's your choice: Red tape or more bloody bandages?

Support the Hazards Campaign call to make Grenfell tower fire the 'Enough is enough moment', to end the undermining of health and safety, and to send an ecard to the Prime Minister to let her know 'We love red tape because it's better than bloody bandages' or burned bodies

<http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/blog/epostcard>

At the Hazards Conference a postcard campaign was launched. If you would like paper postcards, they can be obtained from the address at the end of the newsletter (however, postage will need to be paid). Alternatively support our epostcard campaign using the website address [www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/postcard](http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/postcard) (10,000 have already been sent)



Dear Prime Minister

When you tear up critical fire, building, product, environmental and workplace safety laws you are not removing red tape – you are removing the protection necessary to keep us safe.

The Grenfell Tower fire is one shocking example of the consequences of your government's 'bonfire of health and safety regulations'.

Enough is enough. Stop undermining safety laws at work, in our homes and our communities – instead keep, improve, enforce and uphold the laws that protect us.

Yours sincerely

HAZARDS CAMPAIGN – because we didn't vote to die. [www.hazardscampaign.org.uk](http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk)

Prime Minister Theresa May  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

### WE LOVE RED TAPE – EPOSTCARD CAMPAIGN

Send the prime minister this new 2017 Hazards Campaign ePostcard.

*"The Grenfell Tower fire is one shocking example of the consequences of your government's 'bonfire of health and safety regulations'."*

*"Enough is enough. Stop undermining the laws that protect us."*

## Trade Union Education

Trade Union Health and Safety courses continue to be run at Stockport, Warrington, Liverpool, Blackburn, Burnley, Preston and Manchester by local Trade Union Education Units at various colleges. A full list of the courses available for each term can be found at:

<https://www.tuceducation.org.uk/findacourse/>

It is also worth noting that if any workplace or trade union would like a bespoke course developing then the trade union education units are able to deliver courses on all sorts of issues and also they are now not tied to a particular number of days or hours (only more than 2 or 3).

## Air Pollution – A trade union issue!

Together with the Greener Jobs Alliance the Hazards Campaign has delivered three fantastic training sessions in Manchester, Leeds and London on 'Air Pollution – a trade union issue!' We are working with WirralMet College Trade Union Education Unit to write a 3 day course on Air Pollution. It should be available in the new year. We will advertising these courses widely, when they are available.

We have two more half day training sessions organised:

- 28<sup>th</sup> September in Southampton
- 19<sup>th</sup> October in Birmingham

If you know anyone who would be interested in attending either of these training sessions please ask them to email [Janet@gmhazards.org.uk](mailto:Janet@gmhazards.org.uk) to secure a place.

## Breast Cancer Awareness Month - October

There is a 42% increased breast cancer risk for any women employed in occupations where they were exposed to high levels of chemicals identified as either mammary carcinogens or endocrine disrupting chemicals. The risk for developing breast cancer increased more than 400% in the automotive plastics industry and 500% higher in the food canning industry. <http://www.stir.ac.uk/news/2013/10/ground-breaking-breast-cancer-research-wins-international-award/> (Plastics Workers picture from New Solutions)

In the UK, occupational factors are thought to cause in excess of 40,000 new cases of cancers and 18,000 cancer deaths each year. Between 8 and 16% of all cancers are work related and all these can be prevented.

### Main groups of carcinogens at work

- ❖ Metals – Arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, lead, nickel,
- ❖ Pesticides, herbicides, drugs
- ❖ Asbestos, silica, refractory ceramic fibres, wood and very fine dusts
- ❖ Radiation (solar, ionising, non-ionising)
- ❖ Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (also coal-tar pitch products) – Vehicle (diesel) exhausts, mineral oils, tobacco smoke, combustion products, creosotes, indoor and outdoor air pollution
- ❖ Solvents and chlorinated compounds

- ❖ Chlorination by- products
- ❖ Various chemicals – Aromatic amines, dioxins, benzene, formaldehyde, nitrosamines, Polychlorinated biphenyls, endocrine disruptors, cleaning chemicals, beauty products
- ❖ Shift work and long-term night work

#### What could we do instead?

- During Breast Cancer Awareness month, assess your workplace for cancer risks from carcinogens and working conditions which have been linked to breast cancer (see over for more information).
- Put up posters in your workplace to alert people to these dangers (see over)
- Speak to management about the removal of these carcinogens and the cancer risks from working conditions.
- Where necessary, management should organise medical screening programmes and fully inform anyone exposed to potential cancer risks



"Plastics workers display molded automotive parts"

#### For further information:

- [www.allianceforcancerprevention.org.uk](http://www.allianceforcancerprevention.org.uk) – Campaign group for primary prevention
- [www.chemhat.org](http://www.chemhat.org) - Chemical Hazard and Alternatives Toolbox
- [www.hazards.org/cancer](http://www.hazards.org/cancer) - Hazards Magazine article on cancer
- [www.hazardscampaign.org.uk](http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk) – Hazards campaign website
- [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2791455/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2791455/) - Article on causes of cancer
- [www.gmhc.org.uk](http://www.gmhc.org.uk) – Greater Manchester Hazards campaign website
- [www.edc-free-europe.org/](http://www.edc-free-europe.org/) - Hormone disrupting chemicals in Europe
- [www.frompinktoprevention.org/](http://www.frompinktoprevention.org/) - Breast cancer prevention
- [bcaction.org/](http://bcaction.org/) - Health organisation that refuses pharmaceutical funding

Primary prevention is more important than collections and pink washing!  
Remove these cancer risks from work!

### European health and safety week – inspection day

Each year 1,400 people are killed in work related incidents and more than 50,000 people die from work related illnesses. Trade Unions ensure our employers prioritise our health, safety and welfare.

*'Safety representatives save lives, and they do so because they are able to empower the workforce to play an equal part in the management of risks at work'* TUC Hazards at Work. .

During European Health and Safety Week, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October is 'National Inspection Day'. Safety Representatives should use the day to: consult your members about hazards at work; conduct workplace inspections; consult management on your findings; report back to members on the outcomes. <https://www.tuc.org.uk/research-analysis/reports/national-inspection-day>

**Use the TUC or your own trade union inspection work sheets to help you:** <https://www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/extras/insbooklet30auglowres.pdf>  
*ir Pollution – A trade union issue Air Pollution – A trade union issue*

### Tyred – Please support this campaign

On September 10<sup>th</sup> 2012 a coach crashed on its way back from a music festival. Three people died as a result, Michael Molloy, age 18, Kerry Ogden, 23, and Colin Daulby, 63. The crash was caused by a tyre that was nearly 20 years old. This is legal. Michaels mum and family are campaigning to put an end to it. They set up a petition (which is now closed) and have had it raised in parliament on a number of occasions, but for unfortunately it has not been enacted. It is a campaign which has got huge support across the tyre industry, from trade unions and has the backing of the Labour party. It is about Help spread the message that Old Tyres Kill. We should be asking any coach companies before we travel about the state of their tyres. The campaign need us to tweet, and shout about this. Contact your local MP and councillors, what ever their political party to secure their support for the campaign. Register your support at: **[www.tyred.org.uk/support](http://www.tyred.org.uk/support)** For the sake of the safety of all of our children, lets get some timelimits put on the age of tyres being used by coach operators. Trade unions should be raising the issue with their employers and local councils to ensure that anyone using coach fleets like school buses, works buses, replacement bus services, coaches for school trips, work trips etc are confident that the tyres are legal and risk free.

**tyred**



### Funding shortfall at GMHC

Many Trade Union branches across the North West affiliate to the GMHC, which helps finance our work. In recent years grants that were once available to organisations like ours have been stopped and we are continually investigating different funding bids to help us continue our work. This has become increasingly difficult and as such we are experiencing a shortfall in our finances this year. Therefore we are appealing to trade union branches to consider making us a donation as well affiliating to the GMHC. If you would like us to come and speak to your branch about our work, then please email **[janet@gmhazards.org.uk](mailto:janet@gmhazards.org.uk)** or call 0161 636 7558. If you would like to make a donation then please make cheques payable to GMHC and send them to the address at the bottom of the page. If you would like to donate and pay by BACS then please contact me for our account details.

### Important Dates

Sept 1984 the 1<sup>st</sup> issue of Hazards Magazine – why not celebrate the date by subscribing to the Hazards Magazine and by using the useful Dave Smith Organising Column articles to organize differently. <http://hazards.org/organising101/index.htm>  
19 Sept 1997 – Southall rail accident – 7 killed  
Oct – Breast Cancer Awareness Month  
1<sup>st</sup> Oct – Older Workers Day  
21<sup>st</sup> Oct 1966 – Aberfan – 144 killed  
Oct – European Health and Safety Week  
Oct – TUC Health and Safety Inspection Day

## Greater Manchester Hazards Centre and other links:

### Address:

Windrush Millennium Centre,  
70 Alexandra Rd, Manchester M16 7WD  
Tel: 0161 636 7558  
Email: [janet@gmhazards.org.uk](mailto:janet@gmhazards.org.uk)

Our website needs to be revamped! – [www.gmhazards.org.uk](http://www.gmhazards.org.uk) – if you have the skills or want to get involved in supporting us please contact us.

### Other Links:

Facebook: Greater Manchester Hazards Centre, We didn't Vote to Die at Work; Families Against Corporate Killers; Hazards Magazine  
Twitter: @jnewsham; @hazardscampaign; @HildaPalmer; @hazardsmagazine; @hazardseitor

HSE: [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)

TUC Risks: [https://www.tuc.org.uk/news?search\\_api\\_views\\_fulltext=Risks&field\\_region=All&field\\_news\\_type=2](https://www.tuc.org.uk/news?search_api_views_fulltext=Risks&field_region=All&field_news_type=2)

Breast Cancer campaigning organization for primary prevention: <http://www.frompinktoprevention.org/>

Cancer campaigning organization for prevention of environmental and occupational risk factors: <http://allianceforcancerprevention.org.uk/>

Greater Manchester Asbestos Victims Support Group: [www.asbestos-victims-support.org](http://www.asbestos-victims-support.org)

Hazards Magazine: [www.hazards.org](http://www.hazards.org)

