



BLUE COLLAR ADVOCATE

Raising Voices - Raising Awareness - Raising Standards

“Going To Work Should Not Be A Grave Mistake!”

THIS WEEK’S HEADLINES

5 years after W.Va. mine blast, safety and explosion issues persist

By Dylan Lovan and John Raby / Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — The nation’s worst coal mine disaster in decades exposed lax safety measures at some Appalachian mines, issues that persist five years later despite the crackdown that followed, according to an Associated Press review of federal inspection records.

Excess methane gas and flammable coal dust fueled a fireball that raced through the Upper Big Branch mine in southern West Virginia on April 5, 2010, killing 29 men. The explosion and mass casualties rocked the mining community, which had just recorded its safest year ever in coal mines.

[READ MORE](#)

Driver accidentally kills son in Argyle work zone

ARGYLE — A man driving a big rig accidentally killed his own son Tuesday in the second fatal accident in less than a week at an Argyle High School construction site.

The victim was identified as 22-year-old Daniel Moran of Haslet.

[READ MORE](#)

International Nutrition to Pay \$78,000 in Omaha Plant Collapse-

OMAHA, Neb. – A livestock feed company has agreed to pay \$78,000 in penalties related to last year’s collapse of International Nutrition’s Omaha plant that killed two workers.

The Labor Department’s Occupational Health and Safety Administration announced the settlement Wednesday. Originally, regulators had sought nearly \$121,000 in penalties.

[READ MORE](#)

USMWF’S HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK

SHERMAN HOLMES

This week USMWF would like to honor worker, Sherman was killed in February 2011 while working at K&K Forest Products in Evert, Michigan. He was killed when struck by a felled tree. MIOSH investigated the incident and assessed a \$1,525.00 penalty and 3 serious violations. There were no reductions.

(A special Happy Birthday in Heaven.)

[Read More](#)



~ 4/6/1955 - 2/1/2011 ~

USMWF'S VIDEOS *(click each video to view)*



USMWF WMD 2014;
Song by: Dani and Lizzy, Dancing in the Sky.



16 Deaths Per Day by brave new foundation on Nov 6, 2009. Help protect America's workers. Sixteen workers are killed a day in the United States because of reckless negligence on the part of their employers. Under existing laws, these employers get a slap on the wrist, or walk away scot-free. Meanwhile, workers who blow the whistle face threats and retaliation at the workplace.

USMWF'S WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS

APRIL 28, 2015

Oklahoma • Nebraska • Michigan

OKLAHOMA:

Please join us as we remember those lost to work-related accidents on Tuesday, April 28, at 7:30pm at the 4th Floor Rotunda,

Oklahoma State Capitol,
2300 N. Lincoln,
OKC, OK 73105.

For more information about this special event go to:
<http://www.okworkersmemorialday.com/>



Oklahoma's Worker's Memorial Day Vigil 2014
(Click to view video)

NEBRASKA:

Nebraska we would like you to welcome you to join us this year as we will be having many events in honor of Workers' Memorial Day.

Saturday, April 25, 2015

USMWF's Nebraska's 5k Family Fun Run/Walk F
Fundraiser;

Lincoln, Nebraska at Holmes Lake Park

Race begins at 2:00 pm (*non-timed 5k fun run*)

Monday, April 27, 2015

Raising Cane's Fundraiser for USMWF

48th and R Street

5-7pm

Just mention you are with USMWF and 20% will go to USMWF.

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Nebraska's 4th Annual FREE Safety Expo

Country Inn & Suites, Lincoln, NE (Airport Exit)

8:00am to 3:30pm

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Nebraska's 6th Annual Workers' Memorial Day
Candlelight Vigil , State Capitol

7:00pm.

For more information about this special event go to:
<http://www.usmwf.org/NE5KRUN.htm>

WEEKLY TOLL:

Follow USMWF's weekly toll of names and articles of the hard working men and women that have been lost in preventable work related incidents across the United States on our weekly toll.

CLICK HERE



Cont. WMD Events

MICHIGAN:

Michigan has multiple events going on this year for Workers' Memorial Day.

Please join us at:

Safety Expo: April 27, 2015
9-4 pm at Cadillac Public Library (Cadillac MI)
Baked goods and coffee upon arrival

Topics: logging safety, cell tower safety, lock out tag out, workers compensation and view from a business owner (logging company)

Break for a FREE lunch

Workers' Memorial Day Vigil:
Performing Arts Rotary Pavilion on Lake Cadillac
7-8 pm



Photographs taken by David Y. Lee

PROCLAMATION



(Photograph left to right)
Christina Twohig, Niece of Uncle Bobby; Sheri Hitchler, Mom of Ryan Hitchler; Darwin Craig, Nebraska Assistant Area Director OSHA, Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts, Tonya Ford, Deputy Director of USMWF and Niece of Uncle Bobby; Rod Hitchler, Dad of Ryan Hitchler.

ARTICLES:

Nabors subsidiary sanctioned by OSHA for 'preventable' death,

By Lise Olsen | April 8, 2015

[READ MORE](#)

Judge to make decision to enforce OSHA fines against 'Midnight Rider' movie executives.

By Dal Cannady

[READ MORE](#)

On April 8, 2015, Nebraska USMWF Family Members and Nebraska OSHA Representative joined together for the signing of the Workers' Memorial Day Proclamation.

Governor Pete Ricketts, Hereby Proclaims the 28th day of April 2015 as Workers' Memorial Day in the State of Nebraska.

Rod Hitchler spoke on behalf of all family members and invited the audience at the State Capitol to join us in honoring the men and women that we have lost due to preventable work related incidents on April 28, 2015 . A special thank you to Rod for representing us and our families and to Governor Ricketts for recognizing this meaningful day in Nebraska.

REFERENCE SITES:

USMWF: www.usmwf.org

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/USMWF>

GRAIN MILL ACCIDENTS:

<https://www.facebook.com/GrainMillAccidents>

HOW TO CONTACT USMWF:

PH: 1-859-266-5646 (8am-5pm, Mon-Fri. est.)

EMAIL: support@usmwf.org

ADDRESS:

2837 Yellowstone PKWY, Lexington, KY 40517

Tonya Ford, Deputy Director & Secretary (Lincoln, NE)



Tonya became an active member and advocate for workplace safety after the death of her Uncle Bobby (Robert Fitch) in January 2009 and was appointed USMWF's Deputy Director in February of 2015.

Uncle Bobby fell 80ft off of a belt-operated man-lift in a local Archer Daniel Midland Plant (ADM) that he had worked at for over 30 years. His brother in-law found him that day and stayed by his side while the paramedics did everything they could do to help him however, Uncle Bobby could not be revived at the scene and was pronounced dead a few minutes later at the near by hospital.

Read more about Robert Fitch and more about Tonya's work [here](#) including Worker Memorial Day events for Nebraska families.