

TALK IS CHEAP! SAFETY MATTERS.

Holding an event on Workers' Memorial Day

Workers' Memorial Day is a day to commemorate our sisters and brothers who we have lost or have been injured on the job. It marks the anniversary of the passing of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Act, 55 years ago on April 28, 1971.

We have asked APWU members who do not wear uniforms to wear stickers, and to complete the safety checklist that was mailed to every member.

In addition, we are asking local leaders to organize small events to recognize the day.

Event suggestions

Here are some suggestions for events:

- A minute of silence to recognize the dead and injured.
 - Speak to management about holding a moment of silence that all workers can recognize together.
- A candlelight vigil outside one or more of your locations
 - Gather workers outside a facility after dark with candles for a somber recognition of the day
- Joining an AFL-CIO-organized event
 - You can find a link to the AFL-CIO events map at apwu.org/safety
 - Speak to your State Fed or CLC about their event and whether you can speak about the challenges postal workers face

Notes on events:

Unless you're speaking at a public AFL-CIO-sponsored event, these are not intended to raise awareness in the general public. They are meant to bring our members together and highlight what we can do to hold management accountable for a safe workplace. Think about how you can do that as you plan an event. Here are some ideas for a moment of silence or a vigil.

For a minute of silence, gather members together.

If you are leading the silence, give a short introduction about the history of Workers Memorial Day (find more at the AFL-CIO's website), tell people that we are remembering those who have died on the job or been injured.

Participants should treat the moment solemnly, bowing heads with phones silenced.

The leader should hold a watch or timer and tell everyone when it is finished with a few words of thanks.

At the end of the moment of silence, remind everyone how important a safe workplace is and that our contract holds management responsible for creating that environment.

Consider circulating flyers, such as the *Stand Up for Safe Jobs* flyers and the checklist.

Holding a vigil

A vigil is a slightly more significant event, but it doesn't have to be huge to be effective.

Visuals

Lighting candles is a classic symbolic act. Others include placing flowers or writing messages.

Program

A typical program might be:

Introduction – explain why we are here

Why safety is paramount –

The labor movement marks Workers Memorial Day because more than 380 workers are killed across the USA EVERY DAY and more than 8,600 suffer injury and illness because of dangerous working conditions that are preventable.

We have a particular problem in the USPS. Though our contract guarantees us a safe workplace, too often, management breaks the contract and puts our safety at risk.

Act of remembrance

[The vigil begins action, such as lighting its candles or laying flowers]

We are here to commemorate 13 of our sister and brother workers who died on the job in FY 2025 in our crafts alone. We also remember that 5,673 of us were injured in the past six months alone.

We are determined to fight for a workplace where everyone gets to go home to their loved ones at the end of every day. Where management takes its responsibility to secure prompt medical attention to save lives and eliminate safety hazards.

After each incident, I want you to reply to me “every death is one too many”.

On Nov 25, 2024, we lost someone in Dominick V Daniels P&DC, Kearny, NJ

REPLY: Every death is one too many

[Continue down the list, pausing for response.]

Dec-21-2024, New Jersey NDC, Jersey City, NJ

Jan-06-2025 Bethlehem Post Office, Allentown, PA

May-14-2025, Powderly Post Office, Powderly, TX

Jun-04-2025, Atlanta GA RPDC, Palmetto, GA

Jun-17-2025, Human Res Shared Services, Greensboro, NC

Jul-02-2025, Mid Hudson P&DC, Newburgh, NY

Jul-15-2025, East Greenwich, East Greenwich, RI

Jul-20-2025, South Suburban P&DC, Bedford Park, IL

Oct-10-2025, LOG Atlanta Ga RPDC, Palmetto, GA

Oct-14-2025, Austin Annex, Austin, TX

Nov-03-2025, Queens, Flushing, NY

Nov-08-2025, Detroit NDC, Allen Park, MI

Moment of silence

Take a moment of silence to remember those lost

Wind up

Let us play our part to make sure we can cut that number closer to zero by next year. Complete your checklist, speak up and do not let management bully you into working unsafely.

Stick together as a union and make sure that we hold management to account – they are responsible for our safety and we need to make sure that they stick to it.