

TALK IS CHEAP: SAFETY MATTERS.

APWU Workers' Memorial Day Digital Toolkit

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SUMMARY: On April 28, 1971, the Occupational Safety and Health Act went into effect, promising every worker the fundamental right to a safe job. (In 1989, the AFL-CIO chose this date to observe Workers Memorial Day.)

The labor movement and its allies won the law in 1970 through relentless advocacy, exposing the toll of work-related deaths, diseases and injuries, organizing for safer working conditions and demanding that our government take action.

For 55 years, unions and our allies have fought tirelessly to fulfill that promise—winning workplace protections and federal and state regulations that have made jobs safer and saved lives. But there is much more work to be done moving forward.

Each year, hundreds of thousands of workers are killed, and millions more suffer injury or illness because of their jobs. Far too many workers die from preventable hazards or become ill from exposure to toxic chemicals, and these chronic exposures are worsening.

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On April 28, Workers' Memorial Day, we kick off our campaign, *Talk is Cheap: Safety Matters*. Let's hold management accountable for workplace safety. APWU is encouraging members to wear stickers on Workers' Memorial Day, and participate in a vigil, headed by your local.

KEY INFO:

apwu.org/safety

[Safety Checklists](#)

Social Media Shares

Downloadable Stickers

How to Hold a Vigil

Send photos of your actions to communications@apwu.org

DOWNLOADABLES:

[Safety Checklists](#)



HOW TO HOLD A VIGIL: [[download a copy of our vigil guidance document](#)]

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

All you need is a Program with Visuals. 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.

Send photos of your actions to communications@apwu.org