



# SafeTalk



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## *April 28 - National Day of Mourning* *Avril le 28 - Jour National De Deuil*

October 18, 2006 Michel Tremblay  
Local 1-2995

December 22, 2006 Mario Filice  
Local 1-2693

November 22, 2006 Jagir Singh Gill  
Local 1-424

February 16, 2007 Éric Whitehouse  
Local 9414-54

**REST IN PEACE**

### ***MOURN FOR THE DEAD—FIGHT FOR THE LIVING***

Every year at this time, we commemorate April 28 as a day to remember those who have been killed by their work. For many of us, it is a very personal experience. Someone we worked with or knew was killed at work. Chances are, if an accident or a close call hasn't happened to you directly then you know someone for whom it has. An accident at work can happen to any one of us and the effects can be devastating. Since last April 28<sup>th</sup> four Steelworker members were killed on the job in Canada.

Commemoration is important. It reminds us that our efforts to work safely and to encourage our employers to make work safer have a deeper meaning.

In 1984, when the Canadian Labour Congress initiated April 28<sup>th</sup> as the National Day of Mourning to honour Canadian workers injured or killed on the job, there were 744 workers listed as being killed on the job. In 2005, the numbers listed by the Association of Workers Compensation Boards of Canada showed that there were 1097 workers killed due to workplace injuries.

Since 1984, more than nineteen thousand (19,000) workers have been killed on the job. More than twenty million (20,000,000) have been injured.

World wide two million workers are killed on the job each year.

According to a study by the Centre for the Study of Living Standards, the number of work-related fatalities in Canada is rising sharply. Only four other countries have higher rates of workplace fatalities than Canada—South Korea, Mexico, Portugal and Turkey.

On April 1, 2004, after years of lobbying by the United Steelworkers, Bill C-45 or as it is better known, the Westray Bill became law. There have only been two charges under the Westray Bill and as of yet there have been no convictions. In the same time over two thousand (2000) workers have died as a result of workplace disease or injury.

Our union is committed to concrete action to protect the health and safety of our members and of all workers. We can make a difference at work, in the community, and in the legislature.

## HAZARD ALERT

**Type of Injury:** 1 Fatality(s)

**Type of Occurrence:** Struck by object

**Incident Description:** Two workers were using a rubber-tired log loader to prepare the blade assembly of a track-type tractor prior to attaching the blade to the "C" frame of the tractor. One of the loader's forks was used to prop the blade up. The tractor operator was attempting to manually position one of the blade's swing arms when the blade assembly shifted, causing the swing arm to rotate, striking and pinning him to the ground.

**Type of Injury:** 1 Serious

**Type of Occurrence:** Contact with equipment

### **DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT**

A shingle sawyer was in the process of adjusting the circular head saw carriage (gauging up) when the worker's hand slipped and contacted the saw.

**Type of Injury:** 1 Serious

**Type of Occurrence:** Struck by object

### **DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT**

A certified faller was struck in the face by a broken limb. The faller had planned to utilize a pusher tree to overcome a falling difficulty. He had cut up and set wedges in a large cedar tree. He then felled the pusher tree which successfully felled the large cedar. During the falling sequence the faller was struck in the face by a broken limb.

**Type of Injury:** 1 Injury

**Type of Occurrence:** Struck by object

### **DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT**

While conducting the final adjustments to the Planner Side Head top Hold Down Shoe, a Planerman (Millwright) accidentally dropped the 15/16 X 12 inch spanner he was using into a narrow slot in the side head planner shroud. The spanner contacted the top of the rotating side head (3600 rpm) and was propelled back out the opening. The spanner struck and fractured the Planerman's left forearm.

**Type of Injury:** 1 Fatal, 2 Serious injuries, 1 Injury

**Type of Occurrence:** Marine vessel accident

### **DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT**

The following is based on initial reports: Three workers departed from camp in a crew boat to check on a boomman running a sidewinder boat in from another location. The boomboat was reportedly a few miles away in weather that was growing more severe (including snow), and with visibility decreasing. After transferring the boomman into the crew boat, the workers became lost/disoriented in the conditions. The boat struck the shore a few miles away from camp as it attempted to return.

## Day of Mourning: Steelworker Leaders at Rallies, Memorials Across Canada

At the end of a week in which two high-profile workplace deaths included a Toronto Transit Commission worker and an engineer on a runaway train in BC, national and international leaders of the United Steelworkers (USW) are taking part in events across Canada commemorating workers killed because of their work.

"This internationally-recognized Day of Mourning is a solemn time for members of our union," said USW National Director Ken Neumann, who will speak to a noon rally on Friday (April 27) at downtown Toronto's Larry Sefton Park, just behind city hall.

"The park has a lot of meaning for Steelworkers because Larry Sefton was a Steelworker leader during the union's formative years until shortly before his death in 1973," said Neumann. "He was a champion of safe and healthy workplaces and it is always fitting to hold Day of Mourning events at the park named after him."

USW Ontario/Atlantic Director Wayne Fraser, who will be at the Steelworkers Hall in Kingston, ON, on Saturday morning (April 28 8:30 a.m.), said the struggle to save lives at work is ongoing.

"You don't always hear every gruesome story," he said. "But, as long as employers continue to cut corners, and as long as corporate interests override the interests of working people, the slaughter will continue."

USW Western Canada Director Steve Hunt will take part in a Friday morning ceremony (10 a.m.) at the Sanctuary in Hastings Park, Vancouver. Saturday will find Hunt in Kimberley, BC, where four workers, two contractors and two paramedics, were killed nearly a year ago in a dark, airless shed at the decommissioned Sullivan Mine.

"That incident, and the fact that in 2005 43 forestry workers were killed on the job over less than a one-year period, is proof that deregulation and contracting out are dangerous, even deadly, practices," said Hunt. "Our union will not stop putting pressure on governments and employers until workers' lives are no longer deemed expendable."

USW International President Leo W. Gerard will be at two Day of Mourning events on Saturday. First, Gerard will join Steelworkers and other union members in Sudbury at 9 a.m., followed at 3 p.m. in Elliot Lake, where a workers' memorial will be unveiled. The memorial contains the names of hundreds of miners killed over the history of mines in the area.

Lynn Williams, Order of Canada recipient and retired USW International President, will also be at the Elliot Lake ceremony, along with singer/songwriter Rita McNeil.

"These are important events for every worker," said Gerard. "As leaders in a union like the Steelworkers, we must never let our guard down when it comes to health and safety. While we mourn for those who have been killed as a result of injury or illness, we must always fight for the living."

Around the world, annual job-related deaths are said to be in the range of 1.9 – 2.3 million.