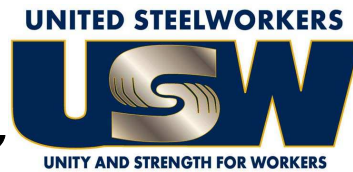




# SafeTalk



## Steelworkers Remember



**Guy Sifert and Kevin McElree lay a wreath for Local 5917 at the Day of Mourning ceremony in Regina Saskatchewan**

Steelworkers across Canada took time to remember workers who have been injured or killed on the job this past April 28th. In Toronto in conjunction with the National Policy Conference Nathan Phillips Square was filled with more than 600 people,

many of whom have either lost loved ones or have been injured themselves. Toronto Mayor David Miller opened the ceremony with a proclamation on behalf of the City of Toronto and paid tribute to Dilshod Marupov, the lone survivor of the Christmas Eve scaffolding collapse in Toronto that killed four migrant workers. OFL President Sid Ryan demanded that if employers disregard workers safety and workers are injured or killed because of their negligence that they should go to jail. As Sid said; "kill a worker go to jail".



**Local 5917 remember Brother John Paget who was killed April 1, 2010**



**In Toronto workers demanded that the employers are held responsible**

## Coming Events

- June 3-4 SAFER Advanced H&S Training, Langley, BC
- June 13 -17 Prairie School for Union Women, Waskesiu Lake, Sask.
- June 24-25 SAFER Advanced H&S Training, Kelowna, BC

### FATALITY in LOCAL 7552

United Steelworkers Local 7552 member Edward Artic died instantly at the Agrium Inc. potash above ground mill on May 11th, after being struck by a metal rigging device which fell 6 stories.

The mine is located about 7 km west of Vanscoy, which is about 25 km southwest of Saskatoon.

Agrium brought in grief counselors to speak with crews. The company also provided grief counselors for family members.

"Our hearts go out to Edward's family and friends," says Kelly Reynolds, the union's safety coordinator at the above ground operations. "There are no sufficient words which can express our grief to his family."

The 59-year father of two adult children was a highly respected individual who had 35 years experience on industrial worksites. "Edward was a worker and a person that a lot of people enjoyed working with and looked up to," says Reynolds. "He was a family man who took a great deal of pride in the work he did."

"Edward trained many apprentices over the years. He was respected for his skills and knowledge," add Reynolds.

Following the accident, the RCMP appeared on the scene, followed by the provincial coroner. Then the Saskatchewan Mining Branch's Saskatoon unit sent in an inspector who was accompanied by a provincial official. After that the surface Joint Health and Safety Committee did an investigation.

The results of the concurrent investigations will be released in the future.

The Mining Branch wrote a contravention order against the procedure that was being used. No further hoisting was to be done unless the load could be fully secured.

The province also issued an order to prevent further use of the hoisting procedure that had been used when the accident occurred.

The fatality was the seventh one that occurred at the mine site since it began operations in 1968 and the first one since 1984. Ed is survived by his wife, Louise Artic (Istace); daughter, Tracy (Roger) Farr; son, Keith (Loretta) Ryan; daughter, Heather Artic; four grandchildren, Matthew, Laurina, David and Jackson; and many other family members.



**EDWARD ARTIC  
October 23rd 1950- May 11th 2010**

## HAZARD ALERT

## Hearing Date Set For Steelworkers Private Prosecution

**Injury Type :** Close call

**Core Activity :** Log hauling

A loaded logging truck was travelling on a public roadway when a bundle of logs (about 15 tonnes) fell off the rear trailer. Two other commercial vehicles struck the logs, sustaining damage. The driver of the logging truck reported he was unaware that the load had fallen off until notified by radio.

**Injury Type :** Multiple fractures of hand

**Core Activity :** Wood products manufacturing

A worker was straightening boards on the re-saw infeed deck. A second overhead deck also feeds the re-saw infeed. As the worker reached in to straighten a board, the gate that controls the flow from the overhead deck came down, striking the worker and crushing his hand between the gate and the lumber.

**Injury Type :** Crush injury to arm

**Core Activity :** Sawmill

Two workers were performing maintenance work on a headrig's carriage bunk. One of these workers had placed his arm inside the bunk. When the air-powered mechanisms cycled, the worker's arm was caught in the mechanism that moves the dogs (sharp teeth that hold the logs on the carriage).

**Injury Type :** Severe crush injuries to hand

**Core Activity :** Metal product manufacturing

An oversized wooden pallet was being transported on a forklift without fork extensions. A worker was standing on the pallet, next to the mast, acting as a counterweight during the transport. The worker was holding onto the mast to steady himself. When the forks of the forklift were raised, the worker's hand was caught between the boom and the mast.

**Injury Type :** Facial injuries; bruising to head, neck, and back

**Core Activity :** Sawmill

A worker was working beneath a partially enclosed elevated deck. A second worker was working on top of the elevated deck. The second worker tossed a 2-inch-diameter steel head shaft assembly to the ground (about 10 feet below). The shaft assembly, which weighed 37 kilograms, struck the worker beneath the deck.

**Injury Type :** Broken arm

**Core Activity :** Wood component manufacturing

A young worker was cleaning around the tail drum of a wood chip conveyor when his arm was pulled into the tail drum. The worker was caught in the conveyor for more than an hour before being found by co-workers.

**Injury Type :** Exposure to chrysotile asbestos (several workers)

**Core Activity :** Vehicle servicing

A worker was servicing a vehicle in a garage bay. The worker used compressed air to clean away brake debris to inspect the trailer's brake shoes. Other workers were in the area at the time. A sample of the brake material was found to contain 20 to 30 percent chrysotile asbestos.

A process hearing has been set in the United Steelworkers' private prosecution of Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd. in connection with the death of millworker Lyle Hewer.

Criminal Lawyer Glen Orris, representing United Steelworkers, says that the hearing will be held on October 26, 2010. At that time a provincial court judge will determine whether a trial can proceed in the USW's private action case against Weyerhaeuser under the so-called Westray amendments to the Criminal Code of Canada.

"This is significant because the process is moving ahead as we hoped," said Steelworkers Western Canada Director Stephen Hunt. Hewer was 55 when he died as he was clearing out a wood waste hog under Weyerhaeuser's direction. In March 2007, WorkSafeBC handed down the largest fine in its history in connection with Hewer's death, assessing Weyerhaeuser \$297,000. When the fine was handed down, WorkSafeBC said that mill management ignored safety concerns and condoned a culture where "complacency in the face of danger became the norm." Following the fatality, the hog was repaired at a cost of \$30,000. However, in spite of recommendations from New Westminster police and WorkSafe BC, the Crown chose not to proceed with criminal charges under the Westray amendments, which make companies liable to charges of criminal negligence in connection with workplace deaths.

### The Simple (Tragic) Case for Unions: Montcoal, West Virginia

"The operator of the Upper Big Branch Mine in Montcoal, West Virginia [Massey Energy Company] where an explosion killed 29 people failed to clear away combustible materials and put its employees at risk by forcing them to work in as much as four feet of water. The Federal Mine Safety and Health Administration deemed the incident "significant and substantial," a term that the agency defines to mean "reasonably likely to result in a reasonably serious injury or illness." Don Blankenship, the company's chief executive, cautioned against reading too much into the Upper Big Branch mine's history of violations, "Violations are unfortunately a normal part of the mining process." (*Wall Street Journal*, April 9, 2010)

"The United Mine Workers tried to organize the workers at the Upper Big Branch Mine, the site of the recent fatal explosion, about three years ago. The first vote was a tie, the union lost the second election by 14 votes, and it withdrew its petition before a third vote was taken. "When we first began, we had over 70 percent of the people who signed cards," indicating interest in a union, he said. "Then Don Blankenship himself went into the mines and personally talked to the miners," Mr. Smith, a Union spokesman, said. "He was his own personal union-buster. It was very vicious, the first time in 60 years that a mine operator brought in strikebreakers, brought in armed guards." (*Bloomberg News*, April 9, 2010)