
Work Hazards, Toxic Materials, Stressful Conditions

Everyone Needs a Safety Net

Join up to WMSafety.Net

Safety Net West Midlands is the online project of West Midlands Hazards Trust, comprising:

- A website www.wmsafety.net with local and national news on work hazards
- Social networking on [Facebook \(Safety Net West Mids\)](#) and [Safety Net West Mids @SafetyNetWM](#)
- A quarterly hard copy newsletter, also available on the website

For those who are interested in work hazards, please do as many of these as you can:

- Look at the website from time to time
- Join in our social networks
- [Send us your email address](#) if you'd like to be kept up-to-date
- Let us know of local events and issues related to work hazards
- Give us ideas to improve the website, newsletter and resources
- Donate (as a group or individual) to this cause, to enable more to benefit
- Tell others about Safety Net & Hazards Campaign

West Midlands Hazards Trust:

- Is part of the UK [Hazards Campaign](#)
- Has monthly meetings, with a series of public meetings on work hazards issues
- Would like more like-minded people and groups to join up
- Set up [Asbestos Support West Midlands](#) as its main, very active project

- Works with the Regional TUC and Trades Union Councils on local events such as Workers' Memorial Day, and health and safety conferences

Successes - Reports from 2015

Fighting against Blacklisting - Public meeting

[Dave Smith](#), of the Blacklisting Support Group and author of "Blacklisted – the secret war between big business and union activists" spoke at an inspiring meeting of West Midlands Hazards Trust about:

- the bitter struggle of those (many of them safety reps, whose lives were ruined, often for no greater crime than raising basic safety concerns on mainly building sites) to prove that there was a deliberate policy by

employers to prevent them working again

- the victories which have meant proving in court names of companies who have now admitted to carrying out blacklisting and using secret files on huge numbers of people
- and the continuing struggle for justice.

Amongst other things, this has resulted in a compensation scheme for those who can prove they were blacklisted. However, the BSG warns that it views the scheme as inadequate, and those seeking compensation are better to pursue their claims through the legal channels of their trade union.

The Hazards Campaign has a blog on blacklisting. See www.hazards.org/blacklistblog

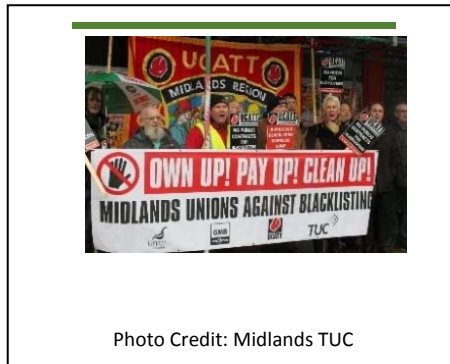


Photo Credit: Midlands TUC

Causes of cancer at work - Public Meeting Report

Hillary Cross, toxicologist, explained, at a public discussion during the Hazards Trust’s Annual General Meeting, about:

- Cancer-causing chemicals (carcinogens) and those which change genetic structure (mutagens) most of which can cause cancer
- the thinking behind prevention and classification
- updated us with issues round glyphosate (“Round-up” weedkiller); diesel fumes, etc
- Provided guidance for reference and answered our questions

See the full report on the WMSafetyNet website.

“Remember the Dead – Fight for the Living”

**Birmingham Workers’ Memorial Day
Thursday 28th April 2016 at 12.30pm
St Philip’s Cathedral, B3 2QB**

Every year more people are killed at work than in wars. Most don't die of mystery ailments, or in tragic "accidents". They die because an employer decided their safety just wasn't that important a priority. Workers’ Memorial Day commemorates those workers.

Speakers for 2016 in Birmingham will include:

- ✓ Carl Chinn (historian)
- ✓ Lee Barron (Regional TUC)
- ✓ Gerard Coyne (UNITE)
- ✓ Shaun Lee (UCATT)
- ✓ Neil Vernon (WMHT)
- ✓ Kathy Gaffney (WMHT)
- ✓ Mary Pearson (BTUC)

Carole, widow of Tom Harte, will be awarded a plaque to honour Tom and his contribution to Workers’ Memorial Day and services to workers.

Dates for your Diary



Below are the confirmed Midlands events at time of writing. Others are expected - see the [TUC website](#) for latest information.

Birmingham

12.30 pm at St Philip’s Cathedral grounds, Colmore Row, B3 2QB

Solihull

12.30 pm at Brueton Gardens, (opposite Barley Mow pub), B91 3HAV

Wolverhampton

12.30 pm at the Cenotaph, Lich Gates, Wolverhampton WV1 1TS

Coventry

12 noon, Bayley Lane, Coventry, CV1 5RN

Chainmakers’ Festival

– Saturday 2nd July 2016

at Cradley Heath High Street, B64 5HJ

Come along to our stall, and many others.

Other public meetings and events, such as Action Mesothelioma Day, are in the pipeline. [Email us](#) to be kept informed.

- 1/We want to support the work of West Midlands Hazards Trust
- I would like to join West Midlands Hazards Trust, please send a membership form
 - I would like more information about the Trust
 - I would like to sign up to the email list for regular updates
 - I would like to make a donation towards the work of the Trust

Name

Address (+Organisation).....

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Email:

I enclose a cheque to West Mids Hazards Centre for £.....