



BLUE COLLAR ADVOCATE

Raising Voices - Raising Awareness - Raising Standards

“Going To Work Should Not Be A Grave Mistake!”

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

Nearly all U.S. workplaces are getting safer – except the family farm. Dangerous practices and equipment, amid lax rules, are driving up deaths.

Richard Rosetter stood inside his 28-foot grain bin and smashed a shovel into the thick layer of ice that covered his corn.

He was in a foul mood. His wife and a neighbor were pestering him, upset that he was working by himself, with no spotter to rescue him if he got trapped.

He had been doing this for 50 years, Rosetter reminded them that cold day in February 2014.

Just before 3 p.m. he realized his mistake. As the corn turned to quicksand beneath Rosetter's feet, he pulled out his cellphone to call for help. But the walls of the bin were too thick. The phone didn't work.

It took rescuers six hours to find his body at the bottom of the bin.

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USMWF'S HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK!!!



Coley Gene Lee, 24

Coley was killed in May 2012 while working for Long Brothers Oil Company in El Dorado, Arkansas. Coley was killed when he was disassembling an old oil tank. The fumes ignited causing an explosion. Mercil "Shane" Chelette, 38 and Lee Randal Ross, 24 were also killed in the explosion.

Federal OSHA investigated the incident and proposed a \$4,800.00 penalty for two serious and one other than serious violation. There were no reductions.

~ 1/13/1988 - 5/21/2012 ~

LIGHT YOUR PUMPKIN!!!!



USMWF Invites you to light a pumpkin for a donation of \$10 in honor of your loved one or a fallen workers on our Facebook page through the month of October.

Go to.... <http://www.usmwf.org/catalog.html> and light your candle today.

WHATS IN THE NEWS?

OMB begins review of OSHA's final rule on electronic recordkeeping

Washington – An OSHA final rule that would require electronic recordkeeping and reporting is under review by the White House's Office of Management and Budget.

OMB received the Improve Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses rule on Oct. 5. Reviews are limited to 90 days but often are extended. OSHA issued a proposed rule in November 2013.

The final rule would require employers with 250 or more workers to electronically submit injury and illness records to OSHA every three months. Some smaller employers would have to electronically submit their annual summary form (OSHA Form 300A). This data will then be made available to the public.

[READ MORE](#)

Memo shows Blankenship was warned about MSHA violations

A Massey Energy safety official warned former CEO Don Blankenship about the severity of the safety violations at Massey mines, according to a June 2009 memo the prosecution plans to use to show the "warlike" relationship between Massey and the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

The eight-page memo offers insight from Bill Ross, a former U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration official who had left MSHA for a job as a top mine ventilation expert for Massey.

[READ MORE](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that you can help support USMWF by purchasing lapel pins, buttons, event candles for Facebook, bumper stickers, and now Memory Vinyl Decals. [Click Here](#) to Support USMWF.



WORKPLACE SAFETY CORNER *(click each video to view)*

G.I. Man Prepares Harvest of Harmony Float With Serious Message



Michaels defends OSHA guidance documents, warns against budget cuts

Washington – OSHA administrator David Michaels appeared before a House subcommittee on Oct. 7 to push for increased OSHA funding and updated laws, and found himself fending off accusations that the agency altered rules without public input.

Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI), chair of the Workforce Protections Subcommittee, criticized Michaels for recently issued OSHA memorandums that reduced the number of retail establishments exempt from the Process Safety Management Standard. The memos were issued in response to an Executive Order to improve safety at chemical facilities.

The exemption was intended to pertain only to sites with small amounts of hazardous chemicals, Michaels said, but OSHA previously had misinterpreted the PSM rule to apply the exemption to large facilities with thousands of pounds of chemicals. The new memo changed that.

“To 3,800 businesses that were exempt beforehand, it was no small change for them,” Walberg said. He characterized the change as having “drastically expanded” the number of entities covered by the PSM standard.

Although Michaels said “countless” meetings with stakeholders took place regarding the exemption, and alliances were formed with the retail and fertilizer industries, Walberg questioned how many of those stakeholders were in favor of the change. [READ MORE](#)

WE STILL NEED YOUR NOMINATION!!!

USMWF NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!

Please take a few minutes (and seriously it only takes a few minutes) and nominate USMWF for a great opportunity to win \$5,000 and help us reach our target audience and make a difference.

Just enter:

Your Name

Organization

United Support Memorial for Workplace Fatalities (USMWF ORG Inc)

Website
www.usmwf.org

Organization's Email
support@usmwf.org



Thanks to the hard work and dedication Of Rod and Sheri Hitchler of Grand Island, Nebraska USMWF family members were Able to walk in Grand Island Harvest of Harmony Parade on October 3, 2015 with honor and pride for all of the men and women including but not limited to each of our family members that lost their lives in a preventable work related incident. I have to admit my heart overfilled with joy and pride as we walked through the parade this year as hundreds in the crowd either clapped, stood up with respect, yelled to us “thank you for your family”, “thank you for making awareness” and even lipiped to us thank you.

I knew right then that we have forever made a positive out of something so negative and that is what we have always wanted to do. When we tell our stories we may never know the lives we change but trust me someone, somewhere has forever changed because of our loved ones story and our voice that speaks for them.....thank you all that walked in this year’s parade.

REFERENCE SITES:

- USMWF: www.usmwf.org
- FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/USMWF>
- GRAIN MILL ACCIDENTS: <https://www.facebook.com/GrainMillAccidents>

HOW TO CONTACT USMWF:

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