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Workers Memorial Day 28 April 2008

'Good Occupational Health for All Workers'

Corporate Killing: Facts and Figures

Every year more people are killed at work than in wars. The **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** estimates that :

2.3 million people are killed by work worldwide every year.

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. Employers can do that because even when there are good laws, they are poorly enforced and so the threat of legal action is very low and therefore deterrence and pressure to comply is consequently very low. Even if employers kill someone through negligence, under current law in the UK they rarely face manslaughter prosecutions. A new Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act comes into force in April 2008. Widely criticised by Hazards Campaigners, FACK (Families Against Corporate Killers) and Trade Unions, for not including legal duties for health and safety on directors, having no individual offences and for the penalty of an unlimited fines instead of custodial sentences. The new Act may make it slightly easier to prosecute large companies by replacing the need to identify a senior individual as the controlling mind of the company by replacing it with senior management failures. The courts will also be able to impose remedial orders and publicity orders which come into force later.

Deaths in incidents at work are the tip of the iceberg – far more people are killed, often years later, by occupational illnesses due to working in poor conditions exposed to risk factors such as carcinogens – up to 20% of British workforce – other chemicals, dust and fumes, long hours, shift work, bullying and harassing management , and so on. The Labour Force Survey, used by the HSE estimates 2.2. million people in Britain as suffering from an illness they believe was caused or made worse by their current or past work. These figures for work-related ill-health are widely thought to be underestimations, grossly so in the case of some diseases.

In the UK the Hazards Campaign estimates that every year:

Deaths in incidents at work: 1,600 to 1,700 people (Hazards, Steve Tombs, Centre for Corporate Accountability)

Death due to work-related illnesses: up to 50,000 people (Hazards)



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Registered in England Company No. 2657947
Part-funded by the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities



The HSE headline figure is that **241 were killed by work in 2006/07** but this only refers to workers (employees, 185, and the self employed, 56) killed in incidents reported to HSE. It does not include members of the public (369), those killed in work-related road traffic incidents (over 1,000) or in the seas around the coast (about 30). Neither does it include those killed by illnesses caused by work and so is a gross underestimation.

Figures for the current year 2006/07 are much worse than for 2005/06. Construction fatalities were up from 60 in 05/06 to 77, a rise of around 30%. UCATT, PCS and Prospect trade unions link the rise in death to cuts in resources available to the HSE. The number of HSE inspections, Improvement and Prohibition Notices, safety prosecutions and convictions and inspector contact times have all dropped markedly in recent years, though they have risen a bit from this low lately.

In the North West in 2006/07 official HSE figures:

Deaths in incidents at work:

- **43 people** (42 in 2005/6)
- **25 employees** (26)
- **8 self-employed** (6)
- **10 members of the public** (10)

For the current year (2006/07) in the North West the HSE provisional figure for employees and self employed killed in incidents does not include, for example, the 7 workers killed in Morecambe Bay helicopter crash in December 2006, or Stephanie Davies killed by a bus when working as a 'lollipop lady' in Salford, September 2006.

236,000 people in the North West believe their ill-health is caused or made worse by work according to HSE official figs.

Deaths in Great Britain

1. OFFICIAL HSE FIGURES

DEATHS in work-related incidents	2006/07 provisional	2005/06	2004/05	2003/04	2002/03
Employees	185	160	169	168	183
Self-Employed	56	52	51	68	44
Workers Total	241	217	223	236	227
Members of the Public	369*	384	370	392	391
TOTAL	610	596	593	628	618

*** Of these deaths, 246 were due to trespass and suicide on railways**

Major Injuries to workers (employees and self employed) 2006/07 provisional, (2005/06, 2004/05, 2003/04)

29,450 (30,217, 31,702, 31,563)

Rate of major injury per 100,000 workers (employees and self-employed)

2006/07 (2005/06, 2004/05)

97.1 (100.7, 107.1)

Over 3 Day Injuries to workers 2006/07 provisional (2005/06, 2004/05, 2003/04)

114,222 (120,268, 122,992, 130,072)

**Rate of over 3 day injury per 100,000 workers (employees and self-employed)
2006/07** (2005/06, 2004/05)

367.8 (400.7, 415.2)

Work related deaths from illness

Asbestos-Related Disease – 4,100

Around 4,000 cancers due to asbestos (mesothelioma 2,037 in 2005 plus about the same number due to asbestos related lung cancer) plus 100 from asbestosis.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis/asbfaq.htm>

Pneumoconiosis -200

More people die from asbestos related illness than in road accidents each year.

Tradesmen and maintenance workers at most risk:

6 electricians and 3 plumbers die of mesothelioma each week; 20 tradesmen die every week, 1,000 per year. See HSE website for their latest asbestos campaign

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/index.htm>.

Other Occupational Cancers

HSE current estimate is 6,000 deaths from all occupational cancers assuming 4% caused by work but 'based on old research and is currently being updated.' Range 3,000 to 12,000, this includes the 4,000 from asbestos.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

HSE estimates around 15% of COPD deaths each year may be work related –
4,000

This gives a total OFFICIAL estimate of about 10,200 people dying from work-related illnesses.

Made ill by work – Labour Force Survey (LFS) gives 2.2. million per year think they are made ill by work; 646,000 new cases; LFS figures give 5% of adults who have ever worked suffering from work-related ill=health.

RSI - 1,144,000 affected; last year 426,000 overall 115,000 new cases a sharp increase on year before.

Stress – 530,000 new cases.

36 million working days lost – 30 million due to work related ill-health, 6 million due to workplace injury.

Source: Health & Safety Statistics <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/index.htm>
Statistics of Fatal Injuries and Health and Safety Statistics 06/07

2. UNOFFICIAL ESTIMATES from research by Hazards, TUC, TGWU, CCA, RoSPA, Brake

Deaths in Work-Related Incidents

The official HSE figure of 241 significantly undercounts those killed at and by work. Unofficial estimates of those killed in incidents is eight times higher at

1,500 to 1,700 each year this estimate includes

241 workers (for 2006/07 p)

369 members of the public (for 2006/07)

small number in miscellaneous categories such as

about 30 people killed at sea, or in sea fishing, or on merchant ships on

British registered ships, or in British waters; fatalities due to supply and use of

flammable gas. In the NW this year that would include the 7 workers killed in helicopter crash in Morecambe Bay Dec 2006;

about 1,000 people in work-related road traffic accidents (1.5 % of vehicles on the roads are commercial but they are involved in 30% of road traffic accidents and deaths) **Source: CCA, RoSPA, TGWU, Hazards, TUC**
100 – 250 deaths due to suicide caused by work-related stress. There are about 5,000 suicides every year in people of working age in UK. In Japan – where work-related suicide or “karojisatsu” in an officially recognised and compensated occupational condition - estimates give five per cent of all suicides are “company related”, equating to over 250 deaths a year in the UK – more than HSE’s total for occupational fatalities. A 2002 Australian analysis of suicide causes over the decade to 2000 would also suggest a UK work-related toll in excess of 100 deaths per year (*Hazards* 83).

<http://www.hazards.org/suicide/cryingshame.htm>

Deaths due to Occupational Illness

Occupational Cancer Hazards estimate based on extensive current research is that between 8-16% of all cancers are work-related. Taking 12% as mid point, gives

18,000 work cancer deaths each year

<http://www.hazards.org/cancer/hsecriticism.htm>

Respiratory Illness Hazards estimate 15-20% of obstructive lung disease could be work related causing about **6,000 deaths per year**.

Heart Disease Hazards estimate that 20% of heart disease deaths are work related – especially through stress -which gives up to **20,000 deaths per year**.

Plus deaths from other work-related illnesses est 6,000

This gives a total estimate of up to 50,000 killed by occupational illnesses

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Made ill by work – Hazards claims LFS ignores a lot of work-related ill-health altogether (e.g. Neurotoxicity, Parkinsons, Alzheimers, most cancers, Motor Neurone Disease, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Scleroderma and other Auto-immune diseases, Vibration White Finger) and grossly underestimates numbers suffering for all work-related causes.

European Survey of Working Conditions estimates that 60% of workers suffer work-related health problems.

Hazards occupational cancer cases estimate – 32,000 new cases (21,600 -43,200) with one in five workers in GB exposed to carcinogens.

Asthma 5 million cases in the UK, up to 15% work-related =750,000, plus the same number have their asthma exacerbated by work.

Source: Hazards Report 2006 for TUC ‘Job to Die for’

<http://www.hazards.org/disease/> and <http://www.hazards.org/cancer/report.htm>

Source: Hazards Report 2006 for TUC ‘Job to Die for’

<http://www.hazards.org/disease/> and <http://www.hazards.org/cancer/report.htm>

3. Deaths in North West Official HSE figures

OFFICIAL FIGURES 2006/07 provisional (previous years 2005/06, 2004/05, 2003/04, 2002/03, 2001/02)

TOTAL FATAL INJURIES - 43 (42, 40, 64, 41, 42)

- **25** employees (26, 20, 23, 26, 23)
- **8** self-employed (6, 8, 26, 3, 4)
- **10** members of the public (10, 12, 15, 12,16)

MAJOR INJURIES to WORKERS – 3,564 (3,796 , 4,023, 3,891, 3,333, 3,447)

- **3,445** Employees (3,646,3,865, 3,766, 3,242,3,339)
- **119** Self-employed (150,154, 125, 91,108)

OVER 3-DAY INJURIES to WORKERS – 14,477 (15,888, 17,284, 15,962, 16,719)

- **14,380** Employees (15,247, 15,771, 17,162, 15,875, 16,621);
- **97** Self-employed (138, 117, 122, 87, 98,)

NON- FATAL INJURIES TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- **1,584** (1,497, 1,427, 1,285, 1, 057,1,560)

Total injuries in the North West (fatal, major and over 3 day to workers and members of the public) = 19,668

Injuries to employees and self-employed by Industrial Sector in the North West 2006/07p (previous years 2005/06, 2004/05, 2003/4, 2002/03, 2001/02)

Sector	Fatal	Major	Over 3 day
Agriculture	4 (2, 4,23,2,6)	36, (39,39, 47,34,46)	71 (77, 81,72, 73, 95)
Extractive & Utility Supply	0 (0, 0, 0, 0,0)	28 (31, 23, 33,22, 24)	103 (88, 94,85, 97,119)
Manufacturing	7 (10,5,1, 7,11)	708, (810, 901,917,980,1,018)	3,028 (3,486, 3,782,4,393,4,922, 5,188)
Construction	12, (9,7,10,11, 5)	531 (589, 625,535, 484, 468)	922 (1,063, (1,083,1,063, 898, 1,020)
Services	10 (11, 12, 15, 9, 5)	2,261 (2,327, 2,435, 2,359, 1,823, 1,891)	10,357 (10,858, 11,669, 9,975, 10,303)
Total	33 (32, 28,49,29, 27)	3,564 (3,796, 4,123, 3,891, 3,333, 3,447)	14,477 (15,888, 17,284, 15,962, 16,719)

Source: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/regions/tables/reginj.xls>

All injuries to workers and members of the public reported to HSE in North West by county 2006/07 provisional (previous years 05/06, 04/05, 03/04, 02/03, 02/01) not including those reported to railway inspectorate

County	Fatal Inj. to workers	Major inj. to workers	Over 3 day inj. to workers	Fatal Inj to m.o.p	Non-Fatal injury to m.o.p	Total
Cheshire	6 (2, 6, 7, 3, 3)	549 (576, 582, 529, 495, 533)	2,135 (2,243, 2,353, 2,608, 2,299, 2,337)	0 (2, 0, 1, 2, 2)	270, (256, 220, 216, 173, 305)	2,960
Cumbria	2 (3, 6, 0, 4, 4)	267 (302, 310, 301, 278, 280)	968 (1,011, 1,063, 1,172, 1,265, 1,246)	0 (1, 0, 2, 1, 2)	100 (117, 108, 87, 78, 103)	1,337
Greater Manchester	9 (17, 14, 18, 16, 18)	1,368 (1,477, 1,510, 1,554, 1,157, 1,282)	5,646 (5,979, 6,240, 6,832, 6,147, 6,512)	5 (2, 5, 3, 4, 8)	505 (519, 458, 420, 376, 466)	7,533
Lancashire	8 (10, 10, 29, 11, 11)	808 (798, 928, 855, 795, 757)	2,943 (3,091, 3233, 4,373, 3,384, 3,461)	2 (4, 5, 4, 5, 4)	457 (400, 421, 352, 275, 452)	4,218
Merseyside	8 (7, 4, 7, 4, 4)	572, (643, 693, 622, 568, 595)	2,785 (3,061, 2,999, 3,199, 2,867, 3,113)	3 (1, 2, 5, 0, 0)	252, (205, 212, 210, 155, 34)	3,620
Total for North West	33 (42, 40, 64, 41, 43)	3,564 (3,796, 4,123, 3,891, 3,333, 3,447)	14,477 (15,385, 15,888, 17,284, 15,962, 16,719)	10, (10, 12, 15, 12, 16)	1,584 (1,497, 1,427, 1,285, 1,057, 1,560)	19,668

m.o.p. = members of the public

source: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/regions/tables/reginj.xls>

Reported deaths by Region and Country in Great Britain

Region/Country	Fatal Injuries To workers 2006/07 (+mop)=	Fatal Injuries to workers 2005/06p (+mop)	Fatal Injuries to workers 2004/05 (+mop)	Fatal Injuries to workers 2003/04 (+mop)
Scotland	31 (5)	32 (14)	37 (12)	18 (11)
North West	33 (10)	31 (8)	28 (12)	49 (15)
West Midlands	33 (13)	12 (15)	26 (9)	14 (9)
London	19 (9)	15 (8)	24 (6)	28 (9)
South East	35 (10)	23 (11)	19 (6)	18 (13)
East of England	19 (8)	19 (5)	18 (8)	17 (11)
South West	24 (7)	17 (13)	20 (9)	12 (5)
Wales	14 (8)	13 (5)	15(6)	19 (9)
Yorkshire	10 (8)	21 (9)	13 (7)	23 (4)
East Midlands	14 (7)	13 (5)	11 (4)	16 (8)
North East	5 (5)	11 (1)	7(5)	12 (2)

Mop =Members of the public

The North West comes second in the GB league for third year running.

Work-Related Deaths Worldwide

Worldwide the ILO estimates that **each year** the toll at work due to unsafe working practices is:

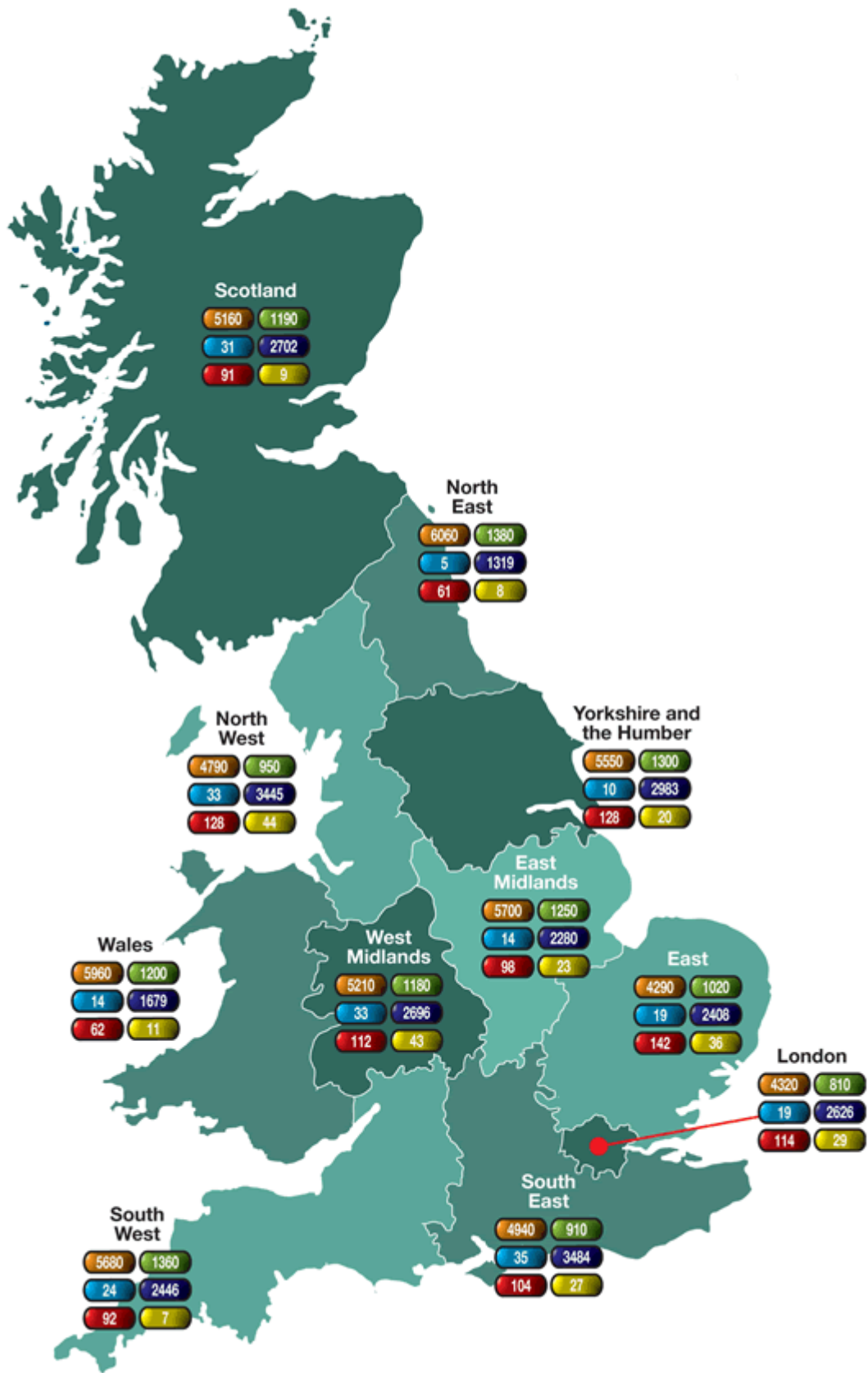
- approximately 2.3 million workers killed by occupational injuries and illnesses;
- at least 355,000 of these deaths are due to incidents at work;
- an estimated 500-2,000 non-fatal injuries for every fatal injury - many result in lost earnings, lost jobs and permanent disability and poverty;
- equivalent to 5,000 workers dying each and every day across the world;
- equivalent to three people dying every minute across the world;

For comparison:

- work kills more than twice as many as warfare (650,000 deaths per year),
- work kills more than twice as many as are killed on the roads
- work kills more people than alcohol and drugs together, and
- the resulting loss in gross domestic product is 20 times greater than all official development assistance to developing countries;
- hazardous substances alone kill 340,000 per year with one substance, asbestos, accounting for 100,000 of the deaths;

The ILO claims that at least half the deaths from incidents could be prevented by safe working practices and all accidents are avoidable and preventable.

Source ILO 2007
www.ilo.org/publications



- Updated 30.07.07

KEY

- Rate of self-reported ill health prevalence per 100 000 people who have ever worked, 2006/07 (LFS) **Orange button top left**
- Rate of reportable injury per 100 000 workers, 2005/06 (LFS, averaged) *These estimated rates are subject to sampling error. Tables giving 95% confidence intervals are at [WRIGOR](#) and [INJGOR](#).* **Green button top right**
Number of fatal injuries to workers in 2006/07p (RIDDOR) **Light Blue button middle left**
- Number of major injuries to employees in 2006/07p (RIDDOR) **Dark Blue button middle right**
- Offences prosecuted by HSE, 2006/07 **Red button bottom left**
- Offences prosecuted by local authorities, 2005/06 **Yellow button bottom right.**