

fack families against corporate killers

John Allan Tucker 58 years old, killed on 13th December 1998 at Corus in Port Talbot, South Wales

By Jean Akerman, sister.

John started work at 15 with British Steel Corporation, (now Corus) - Port Talbot, his job was as a Scarfer.

John was killed after falling approximately 30feet down an open hatchway, which had been left open since July of that year! Nobody had bothered to check that the cover had been replaced, half of the barriers around the open hatchway were missing. The lighting at the scene in that part of the Slab Yard was extremely poor and well below what it should have been, confirmed by a member of HSE in Cardiff.

A Police & Health & Safety investigation was carried out after my brother's death, that evening. BSC were prosecuted by HSE who described it as 'an accident waiting to happen'. The court case brought by HSE against BSC and took place at Swansea Crown Court on 14th September, 1999 - BSC were fined £200,000 plus £3, 567 costs after admitting failing to take reasonable measures to prevent the accident!! At this time, this was the highest ever fine imposed on BSC.

Inquest Verdict:- Accidental Death.

My family and I do not think that the law went far enough to find out **WHO** was responsible for leaving this hatch open for at **least** 4 months. I wanted to know then, and still want to know now eight years later, why the Manager of the Slab Yard and the Safety Officers did not adhere to Health and Safety procedures. If they had then my brother would still be here now enjoying retirement with his family. Instead, John's wife has died of cancer and his disabled daughter is left without either parent.

There are still so many unanswered questions surrounding John's horrible death. There have been more deaths at this plant since 1998 and I am afraid Health & Safety procedures are still being overlooked. In fact Corus killed 18 people in 14 years despite health and safety prosecutions and fines which have not acted as much of a deterrent for this company. (Since Jean wrote this several more workers have been killed at Corus sites across the UK).

More has to be done to stop these unnecessary untimely deaths happening. If you would like to contact me by telephone please feel free to do so on **Jean Akerman, sister**