



Health and Safety Reps @ 40

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Background

- 2 million people have a work-related illness
- Work is responsible for over 20,000 early deaths every year.
- Inspection activity is at an all-time low
- Government still obsessed with deregulation.



Safety reps@40

This is the 40th anniversary of trade union health and safety reps. Go to the TUC website for examples of the real difference that you have made.

Solution

- Strong Unions.
- Safety reps cannot replace inspectors but we can be eyes and ears.
- Unionised workplaces safer.
- Need to ensure that all workplaces are unionised workplaces
- Also must ensure that we have enough trade union health and safety reps and those we have are active and confident.



Good for workers; good for unions

- Winnable:
 - Widely supported by workers
 - Easy to understand
 - Gives workers a sense of their own power
 - Sends a message to the employer
-and don't forget...
- It makes a difference.

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Key Priorities

- Respond to the challenge of an anti-union, anti-regulatory government
- Brexit could be a distraction, but in the long term it poses a threat
- Strong membership and active H&S reps are our biggest weapon.
- Remove asbestos
- Occupational health / occupational cancers
- Work-related road traffic accidents

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Use what we have

- Always use the rights we have under SRSC
- Must use them to the full – inspect, get info from employers, talk to members, get trained. Etc.
- Call in the HSE when the employer refuses to obey the regs.
- The SRSC Regs are a minimum.
- Where things are working, unions can and should try to negotiate more.
- Examples are:
 - ✓ Extending reps "constituencies" to cover contractors, other workplaces etc. (roving reps)
 - ✓ Union Improvement Notices.
- But – concentrate on getting the basics right first

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