

History of 28 April

The annual World Day for Safety and Health at Work on 28 April promotes the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally. It is an awareness-raising campaign intended to focus international attention on the magnitude of the problem and on how promoting and creating a safety and health culture can help reduce the number of work-related deaths and injuries.

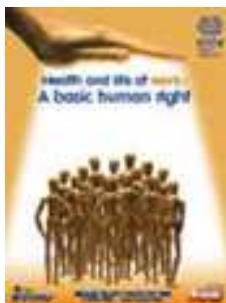
In 2003, the ILO began to observe World Day in order to stress the prevention of accidents and diseases at work, capitalizing on the ILO's traditional strengths of tripartism and social dialogue. 28 April is also the International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers organized worldwide by the trade union movement since 1996.

Each of us is responsible for stopping deaths and injuries on the job. As governments we are responsible for providing the infrastructure – laws and services – necessary to ensure that workers remain employable and that enterprises flourish; this includes the development of a national policy and programme and a system of inspection to enforce compliance with occupational safety and health legislation and policy. As employers we are responsible for ensuring that the working environment is safe and healthy. As workers we are responsible to work safely and to protect ourselves and not to endanger others, to know our rights and to participate in the implementation of preventive measures.

We invite you to join us in promoting this important day.

Below is a list of themes and subthemes for the ILO's past celebrations of World Day for Safety and Health at Work. A brief description of the ILO's aims and goals for celebrating each year's specific theme can be found alongside past promotional posters.

2009 – Health and life at work: A basic human right

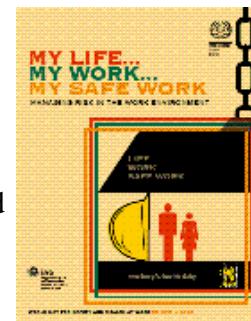


In 2009, the key message for World Day was that even in times of financial crisis and change, safety, health and life at work are basic human rights. The ILO booklet tries to shed light on the possible impacts of the financial crisis on occupational safety and health.

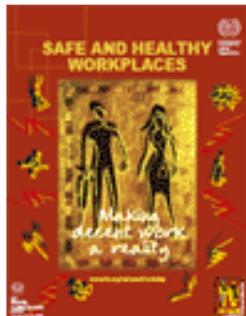


2008 - My life, my work, my safe work: Managing risk in the work environment

In 2008, the goal of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work was to make employers and workers aware of the ways to control and reduce risks in their own workplaces to prevent injuries and protect their safety and health. The Report of the ILO for the World Day highlighted the need for governments, employers, workers and their representatives, as well as research and training institutions and international organizations to work together to reduce the vast human and economic burdens of work-related accidents and diseases.



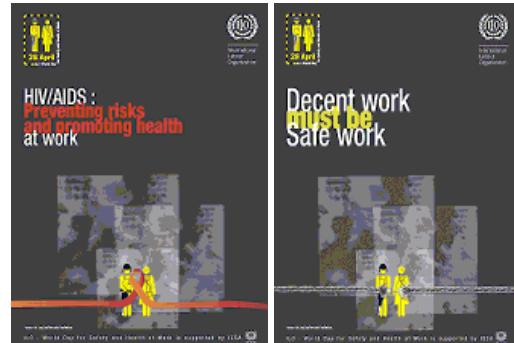
2007 - Safe and Healthy Workplaces - Making Decent Work a Reality



In 2007, the goal of the World Day for Safety and Health at Work was to promote safe, and healthy workplaces and make decent work a reality. In the report published on the occasion of the World Day 2007, the ILO renewed its call for good workplace safety and health practices, including reporting, inspection and standards, as a means of reducing the number of accidents, injuries and illnesses on the job as well as improving productivity.

2006 - Decent Work - Safe Work - HIV/AIDS

Through World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2006, the ILO aimed to contribute to reducing the number of work-related deaths each year, including those resulting from HIV/AIDS, and to making work decent by eliminating workplace stigma and discrimination related to HIV/AIDS.



2005 - Creating and Sustaining a Preventative Safety and Health Culture



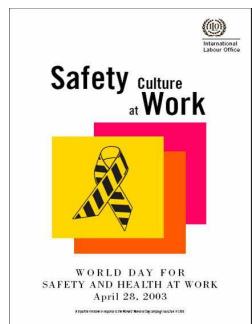
Creating a preventative safety and health culture at work and reducing the number of work-related deaths each year was the main focus for the World Day for Safety and Health at Work in 2005. The subthemes included the construction sector and occupational safety and health for younger and older workers.

2004 - Creating and Sustaining a Safety Culture

In 2004, World Day for Safety and Health at Work focused international attention on promoting and creating a safety and health culture at work and reducing the number of work-related deaths each year. The subthemes were hazardous substances, workplace violence and occupational respiratory diseases.



2003 - Safety and Health Culture In a Globalized World



According to ILO estimates, each year two million men and women die from work-related diseases and accidents - a death toll averaging some 5,000 workers a day. Globalization is affecting occupational safety and health in a variety of ways, some positive, some negative. A strong safety and health culture in all enterprises is a key step towards both preventing occupational deaths and diseases and tackling related effects of globalization. This was the main ILO message for 2003 World Day for Safety and Health at Work.

2002 and 2001 - International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers

In 2001 and 2002 the ILO marked the International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers organized worldwide by the trade union movement since 1996 and coordinated by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU). Web sites were created to record the Day.