

WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY TIMELINE

1871

INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION:

Promoting "decent work for all", the International Labor Organization (ILO) is established to oversee the development of international labor standards. The ILO is the only United Nations agency that brings together employees, employers, and governments to shape work policies.



1902

MARYLAND'S WORKER'S COMPENSATION:

While by 1948, all the states in the US had worker's compensation laws in place, Maryland was the first state to implement them in 1902. Worker's compensation laws helped lead to the creation of on-site first aid services. The first law that covered federal employees was passed in 1906.



1906

UPTON SINCLAIR'S 'THE JUNGLE':

Upton Sinclair's book shocked the reading world as it exposed the contamination of meat in meatpacking factories, as well as the unfair treatment of workers. This helped start the Pure Food & Drug Act of 1906, which later established the Food & Drug Administration.



1907

MONONGAH MINE DISASTER:

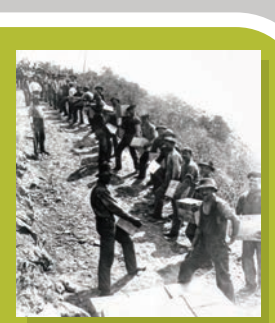
Over 362 workers died in 1907 in the worst mining disaster in the USA. It was only after this disaster was the Bureau of Mines set up to regulate mine safety. Most preventative measures were only set up after a major disaster occurred, and the Monongah disaster was no different.



1908

RAILWAY INDUSTRY DEATH:

Between 1902 and 1908, railroad workers proved to have one of the toughest jobs in America with the industry reporting over 15,000 deaths within those six short years. Railway jobs were usually filled mostly by immigrants who were recruited from Europe, hoping for a "better" life.



1908

LEWIS HINES & CHILD LABOR:

In 1908, Lewis Hines become a photographer for the National Child Labor Committee. "There is work that profits children, and there is work that brings profit only to employers. The object of employing children is not to train them, but to get high profits from their work".



1911

TRIANGLE SHIRTWAIST FACTORY FIRE:

The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire killed 146 workers, mostly immigrant women, died because the exits were locked or blocked, fire escapes were poorly built, and they didn't reach up to the higher floors. This gave birth to the first permanent commission to inspect factory safety in the US.



1912

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS SURVEY:

The studies that spanned three decades by the Bureau of Labor Statistics on the iron and steel industry helped lay the ground work for the OSH Act of 1970. It was the BLS' first full-scale survey of both safety and health conditions in the American workplace.



1913

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR:

The studies that spanned three decades by the Bureau of Labor Statistics on the iron and steel industry helped lay the ground work for the OSH Act of 1970. It was the BLS' first full-scale survey of both safety and health conditions in the American workplace.



1938

FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT:

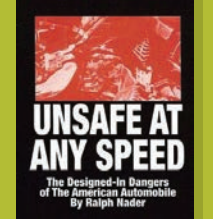
President Truman signs the Fair Labor Standards Act, setting minimum wage to 75 cents an hour, abolishing all exploitative child labor, and gave the Labor Department the power to bar workers under age 18 from dangerous occupations. This act helped start a standard for modern safety laws.



1965

Nader's 'Unsafe At Any Speed':

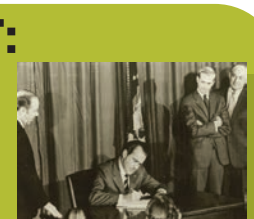
Ralph Nader wrote the book 'Unsafe At Any Speed: The Designed-In Dangers of the American Automobile'. Still referenced today, the book talks about how manufacturers would resist spending money on safety features that could cost just a few cents per vehicle, but would save countless lives.



1970

PRESIDENT NIXON SIGNS OSH ACT:

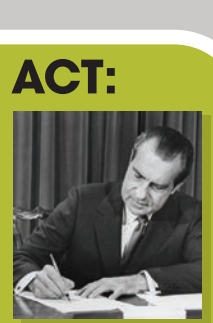
Roughly 50 years after Woodrow Wilson promises, President Nixon signed the OSH Act. This created the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA), the National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH), and the Occupational Safety & Health Review Commission.



1970

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT:

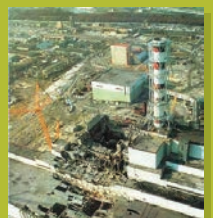
President Nixon once again signed an act in 1970. This time it helped to create the NEPA, which requires federal agencies to integrate environmental values into their decision making processes by considering the risk of environmental damage before taking any actions.



1986

CHERNOBYL, UKRAINE DISASTER:

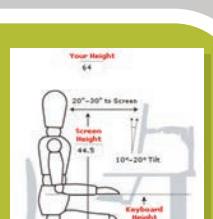
On April 26th, 1986, a catastrophic nuclear accident occurred at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine SSR. This released large quantities of radioactive particles into the atmosphere, which spread all the way to eastern United States. It was the most costly industrial accident that killed 125,000.



1997

ERGONOMICS STANDARD:

Ergonomics became the first state to adopt the ergonomics standard in 1997. This prompted OSHA to issue out its own ergonomics standard just three short years later after previous government issued ergonomic regulations had failed to perform. Poor ergonomics costs millions of dollars in compensation.



2001

BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS:

Injuries have the potential to expose healthcare personnel to bloodborne pathogens. Examples of which include Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and Human Immunodeficiency Virus. Over 384,000 needlestick injuries occur in hospitals each year, 23 percent occur in surgical settings.



2012

OSHA REVISES HAZARD COMMUNICATION:

OSHA is phasing the GHS into its Hazard Communication Standard, with full compliance by June 1, 2016. Employers are now required to provide full training on new chemical labeling and safety data sheets. Creating one standard eliminates confusion.

