

April 25, 2006

THE NATIONAL COSH
Workplace Health and Safety Dirty Dozen Report

The National Council on Occupational Safety and Health [National COSH] is releasing a report today listing twelve companies with poor health & safety records and severe violations. The report details examples of the tragic consequences of workplace deaths, injuries and illnesses for both workers and their families. It calls for stronger enforcement actions, including criminal prosecution, to encourage stricter compliance with health and safety standards. The release of the report coincides with the annual Workers Memorial Day on April 28, which marks the beginning of OSHA and remembers those workers killed, hurt or made ill on the job.

“This list a disgrace to all working Americans who risk their lives every day to make a living for their families” said Emanuel Blackwell National COSH Chairperson. This is the first list of its kind citing poor records in health and safety protections that result in death, serious injury and illnesses. The companies were selected because they had repeated egregious records in health and safety. They are case studies in failed Health and Safety programs.

The report cites the following companies:

British Petroleum, Cintas Corp, DuPont Corp, Hayes Lemmerz International, Honda Motor Company of America, International Coal Group (Sago Mine), McWane, Safety Bingo Inc, Sunesis, UNICCO, Wal-Mart Stores Inc., W. R. Grace

With the goal of preventing future tragedies, the report announces a new National COSH campaign, “Stop Corporate Killers” which calls for an overhaul of the regulatory system to prevent future tragedies. It calls for stronger enforcement actions, including criminal prosecution, to encourage stricter compliance with health and safety standards.

No one knows and feels the consequences of these problems more than the victims and their loved ones. “We need to act now to save others from the pain and suffering these preventable tragedies bring”, said Tammy Miser of United Support and Memorial for Workplace Fatalities [USMWF] and sister to workplace fatality victim Shawn Boone at Hays Lemmerz.

Donald Coit Smith, whose son was killed last year in a meatpacking fatality states “Violations of the law, especially where death is concerned, must carry stiff penalties to include long jail terms. ... They are, in effect, getting away with murder”.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL COSH

The National Council for Occupational Safety and Health is a federation of local and statewide "COSH" groups--Committees/Coalitions on Occupational Safety and Health. COSH groups, the first of which was founded in 1972, are private, non-profit coalitions of health and technical professionals, labor unions, and others that work to promote worker health and safety through education, training, and policy advocacy.

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