

The USW has worked on behalf of its members to create a safe and hazard free work environment. They have done this by forming alliances with other unions to strengthen their power to establish and maintain safe work areas. Some of the unions that the USW has teamed up with are the ACTRA and the UTU. Together, all of these unions ensure that the voices of the workers are heard.

The USW was established in 1942 and contained iron, steel, and tin workers. The union was created to stop violent acts and help the workers receive fair compensation for their labor in as safe an environment as possible. The union has grown over time and helped many of its members attain safer working conditions. The USW also makes employers accountable for the protection and safety of their employees and works jointly with OSHA to succeed in this task. They make sure that employers maintain a hazardous free work area and strive to prevent injury or death. One way the USW accomplishes this is by emphasizing safety training for its members. The USW is also serious about setting and achieving goals that make every worker safe while performing their job in the steel industry. The safety of the worker is very important to them as their motto states, "We make the job safe or we don't do it!!!"(www.safety@uswa1010.org).

The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, commonly referred to as OSHA, made the employer accountable for providing a workplace that is free from hazards. This provided for obvious hazards to be neutralized. However, as found in the database managed by the USW Health, Safety, and Environmental Department there are often unusual conditions such as equipment failures and non-routine maintenance occurrences that are unobserved that lead to injuries and fatalities. Even though OSHA regulates safety conditions in the workplace, there can often be unforeseen circumstances that OSHA fails to cover. In these instances the USW's

involvement is critical to the well-being of its members. One way to insure the members' safety is through on the job safety training.

The USW working jointly with the employer can provide effective training that will allow the worker to identify the hazard or dangerous condition before an incident occurs. The worker needs to be the first line of defense in safety. Hence, the meaning of the USW slogan takes on a deeper and more thoughtful significance. The USW also insures that a laborer will not be unfairly disciplined or harassed by the employer if unsafe and hazardous conditions are reported, thus, insuring a quick and accurate remedy to a potentially dangerous situation.

Another USW goal is to reduce injuries and improve the working conditions of every department its members represent. The United Steel Workers' Union works hard to eliminate job hazards that could cause grievous harm to employees. The USW believes that every one of their members works hard for themselves and their families. With this in mind, they believe that the worker owes it to themselves to work in a safe environment so that he/she can return to their homes healthy and injury free.