

## Trade Union Safety Reps save lives!

- ❖ There are plenty of health and safety laws that should protect workers, but without trade union organised workplaces including Safety Reps, employers can ignore their legal duties.
- ❖ Every year across the UK more than 50,000 people die because of exposure to toxic and hazardous work. Many more thousands develop life impacting ill health and disabilities.
- ❖ The BFAWU Safety Reps role is to make sure your boss deals with the risks, takes a precautionary approach and provides the equipment needed to do the job and prevent injuries and ill health.

**They literally save lives and livelihoods.**

## The right to go home safe and well!

- ❖ Everyone has the right to not be injured or made ill by work
- ❖ Safety Reps make sure their employer is carrying out their legal duty to ensure the mental and physical safety of their workers.
- ❖ Health and Safety at work is a vital organising opportunity and helps strengthen the trade union organisation through recruitment, involvement and activity.
- ❖ Health and Safety at work affects everyone and concerns everyone.

## Who can be a BFAWU Safety Rep?

- ❖ Only a trade union can appoint or elect a BFAWU Safety Representative.
- ❖ They are independent of the employer, which means the employer cannot decide who carries out the role, it is up to trade union members to decide who will represent them.
- ❖ The employer has to provide facilities and paid time off for the Safety Rep to carry out the role and they must provide paid release to attend trade union health and safety training.
- ❖ There are specific laws to ensure that the Safety Rep can carry out their duties – **the Safety Reps and Safety Committee Regulations 1977** – also referred to as **the brown book**  
[www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/BrownBook2015.pdf](http://www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/BrownBook2015.pdf)

## What do BFAWU Safety Reps do?

- ❖ Safety Reps are entitled to carry out a minimum of 4 inspections in the workplace each year
- ❖ Safety Reps can talk to all workers about their health and safety concerns and raise them with management
- ❖ Safety Reps can investigate accidents or incidents and report health and safety problems to management
- ❖ Safety Reps make sure your employer doesn't cut corners or put anyone in danger.
- ❖ Safety Reps are trained by the union on how to carry out the role
- ❖ ...and much more!

**The BFAWU  
Safety Reps'  
role is crucial in  
the workplace**

