

When a local union has a health and safety problem, the staff representative and local union leadership can call on the USW Health, Safety & Environment (HSE) Department for help. The goal of the Department is to improve the safety of working conditions for our members and all workers.

The HSE Department is housed in the International's office in Pittsburgh and is made up of ten full-time staff. Most of the HSE training is done through the Tony Mazzocchi Center for Health, Safety & Environmental Training, which is also housed in Pittsburgh and has 15 full-time staff and over 200 part-time worker-trainers. The USW Canadian National Office also has an HSE department in the Toronto office to work with Canadian local unions.

What does the HSE department do?

1. Provide technical assistance to local unions on health, safety and environmental issues;
2. Assist local unions in working with regulatory agencies (OSHA/MSHA/etc) and with electing party status in court cases relevant to safety and health of our members;
3. Conduct training programs for local union members, health & safety committee members and USW staff through the Tony Mazzocchi Center (www.uswtmc.org);
4. Work for better regulations, laws and standards to protect workers
5. Respond to accidents involving fatalities and serious injuries to help the local union find the root cause and prevent a similar incident;
6. Hold HSE conferences for USW members;
7. Help negotiate better health and safety language in local union contracts;
8. Provide HSE information to USW members through websites, emails and social media; and
9. Coordinate the USW's HSE efforts with the AFL-CIO, Workers Uniting, other unions and worker health & safety organizations.

How can I get help from the HSE Department?

We encourage members to work with their local union leaders, local union health & safety committee and staff representative when an issue arises. If assistance is needed, those individuals should alert the district leadership and the HSE Department for help.

Where can I get more USW HSE information?

You can check out the USW website (<http://www.usw.org/resources/hse>) for more info on worker health and safety and to sign up for periodic emails from the department.