

Below is a description of topics, issues and workshops currently being planned for the 2012 Health, Safety and Environment Conference that will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania – Westin Convention Center – March 5-9, 2012. This preliminary agenda is for information and subject to change.



The Conference will open with a **UNION-ONLY** session on Monday, March 5, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. that will feature an opening plenary with speakers from the USW (U.S. and Canada), CWA, and AFL-CIO, addressing the current state of workplace health and safety, the challenges local unions are confronting, and strategies for improving health and safety conditions in our workplaces; and a panel on improving workplace health and safety using our contracts and laws (panel will include legal experts and USW staff and local unions).

Afternoon Workshops will focus on a variety of diverse topics such as: Worker and Union Legal Rights for Health and Safety • Union Approach to Workplace Health and Safety Inspections • Why Many Hazards Are Overlooked • Ensuring Proper Injury/Illness Recordkeeping – What Unions Should Know and Do • Getting Tough Health and Safety Problems Addressed • Effective Health and Safety Contract Language • Strategies for Preventing/Eliminating “Blame-the-Worker” Safety Programs and Building Support for Effective, Comprehensive Workplace Health and Safety Programs • Using Mapping Activities to Identify Injuries, Illnesses and Hazards • Addressing “Safety Discipline” Cases • Union Strategies for Involving Young Workers in Health and Safety Activities • Union Strategies for Addressing Language Barriers and Involving Immigrant Members in Health and Safety Activities • Developing and Conducting Union Health and Safety Surveys • Union Approach to Preventing and Addressing Workplace Violence • New Perspectives on Workers Compensation • Building Local Union and Community-Wide Workers’ Memorial Day Events • Recent Developments Regarding Occupational Safety and Health in Canada • Union Approach to Ergonomics • Union Approach to Green Jobs for Safer, Healthier Workplaces and a Clean Environment • Union Approach to Health and Safety/Effective Health and Safety Committees • Union Strategies for Effective Accident, Incident and Near-Miss Investigations • Health and Safety for Healthcare Workers • Health and Safety in Mining • Safe and Healthy Working Hours and Shifts

There will be **JOINT-LABOR MANAGEMENT** sessions held Tuesday through Friday, March 6-9. The plenary speakers are still being confirmed but we are planning on government officials speaking on events that occurred over the past year as well as panels on current issues. There will be 3 plenary sessions and 7 sessions of workshops totaling approximately 80 workshops (some repeated for your convenience in attending).

Workshop sessions will cover topics such as: performing workplace health and safety inspections • industrial hygiene • heat stress • photography for health and safety • six dangerous myths that destroy health and safety programs • incident investigations • effective machine safeguarding • cause and effect-root cause analysis • evaluating and controlling noise in the workplace • preventing workplace disasters – learning lessons from Upper Big Branch Mine disaster • occupational disease • ergonomics • hazard mapping • confined space hazards and preparedness • combustible dust prevention programs • process safety management standard requirements • hazard assessment • MSHA training • nanotechnology • robotics • safety system failures • safe patient handling • lockout/tagout • hazards – slip, trip, fall – fall protection • effective labor management health and safety committees • California IIPP Standard • OSHA National Emphasis Program for Chemical Facilities • USW New Worker Awareness Program (CN) • health & safety & the hours of work (CN) • health & safety strategies (in French) • health & safety regulations (CN) • Triangle of Prevention (TOP) • OSHA Enforcement Database • hazard recognition/recovery

We are using your suggestions that we received on previous evaluations so that when you leave this conference, you will go back to your facility with the health and safety information you need to assist you and the members at your facility to create safe and healthful workplace conditions. We look forward to seeing you at the conference.