What is the World Day for Safety and Health at Work?

The World Day for Safety and Health at Work, 28 April, is an annual international campaign that promotes the prevention of workplace accidents, injuries, and occupational diseases. It's a day to recognise the importance of creating safe, healthy, and supportive working environments for employees around the world.

This observance is led by the **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** and highlights the responsibility shared by governments, employers, and workers to foster a culture of prevention in health and safety.

History

The ILO began observing World Day for Safety and Health at Work in 2003. The date, 28 April, also coincides with the International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers, recognised by the trade union movement. This day not only raises awareness but also honours workers who have been injured or lost their lives in the workplace.

Why is it important?

Globally, it's estimated that over 2 million people die each year from occupational accidents and work-related diseases, and hundreds of millions suffer non-fatal injuries. Many of these tragedies are preventable. World Day for Safety and Health at Work reminds us all that good workplace health and safety practices protect lives, improve productivity, and foster wellbeing.

Theme for 2025

The ILO selects an annual theme that focuses on current workplace challenges. For 2025, the theme is expected to centre around "Adapting to Change: Building Resilience in Occupational Health and Safety", addressing how workplaces can prepare for emerging risks brought by climate change, digital technologies, and evolving industries.

How to Celebrate and Get Involved

1. Raise Awareness in Your Workplace
Organise safety talks, poster campaigns, and briefings on key health and safety practices.

2. Host Training Sessions
Provide refresher training on emergency procedures, first aid, or manual handling to improve preparedness.

3. Review Your Workplace Safety Procedures
Use the day as a reminder to review risk assessments and safety policies, and to encourage staff feedback.

4. Remember and Reflect
Hold a moment of silence or a commemoration event for those who have lost their lives due to workplace accidents.

5. Encourage Reporting and Open Discussion
Promote a culture where employees feel comfortable reporting hazards or unsafe conditions without fear of retaliation.

How to Get Involved in North Tyneside

Health and Safety Executive (HSE) – Newcastle Office
Local guidance and enforcement of workplace health and safety regulations.

North Tyneside Council Business Support
Offers advice and support for local businesses on maintaining safe working environments.
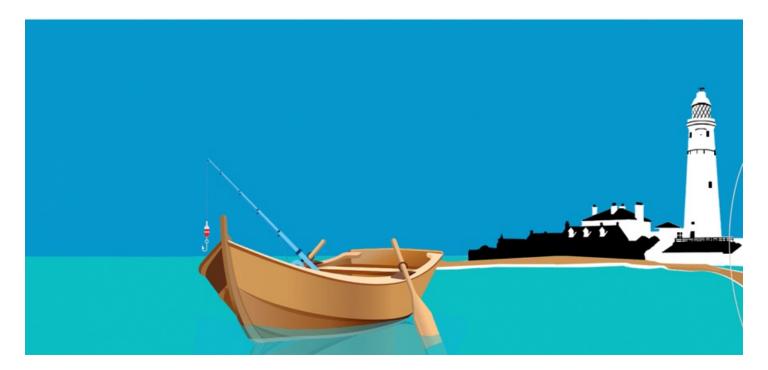
Safe work is smart work

World Day for Safety and Health at Work reminds us that behind every task is a person who deserves to go home safe and healthy. Let's keep pushing for workplaces that value wellbeing, invest in prevention, and ensure everyone is protected — physically and mentally — every single day.

Related Links

- HSE UK (Health and Safety Executive)
- IOSH (Institution of Occupational Safety and Health)
- RoSPA (The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents)
- International Labour Organisation (ILO) – World Day for Safety and Health at Work
- North Tyneside Council Business Support

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