

Watch Your Back

Workplace injuries kill and cripple thousands of workers every year. In Canada, while the provincial workers compensation agencies recognize *only* about 2 workplace deaths every day of the year, it is estimated that at least 20 more Canadian workers die every day from occupational diseases, particularly cancers.

Adding insult to injury, workers throughout North America face legislative agendas that undermine current workplace protections and provide less care for injuries that do occur, so that employers don't even pay the full financial cost of their unsafe workplaces.

In Canada, the job of monitoring dangerous worksites and acting on unsafe conditions is shared by federal and provincial labour departments and provincial safety/compensation agencies. The unchecked tide of injuries and illnesses testifies to the ineffectiveness of these bodies.

To combat this trend and to protect our members at work, the IAM will begin to monitor and catalog injuries on the job. The IAM Health and Safety Department has developed a database on the Vlodge.net to accurately document the dangerous conditions so many of us face on the job. This database can be accessed by Local and District Lodge Officers and authorized employees along with the Educators and Communicators who have registered on Vlodge.

To request for Vlodge registration information go to support@vlodge.net or call the support desk at 301-967-3481.

Safety Committees or Shop Stewards should forward the injury information form to an authorized district or local lodge Vlodge user. Local Lodge Communicators will spread the news about the new program and direct Shop Stewards to download a pdf file of the confidential Injury Reporting Form at <http://www.iamaw.org/publications/pdfs/accident%20form.pdf> where basic details of an injury can be recorded.

Additional information about the program and copies of the Injury Reporting Form are now available on the IAM Health and Safety web site under Latest Updates at www.goiam.org/visit.asp?n=115.

