



The good things they don't tell you about unions ...

When we go to work, we should come home in one piece



Work can be dangerous – even deadly. It's not just mining, transportation, construction, or manufacturing. Workers in all sorts of settings suffer crippling repetitive motion injuries. Health-care and mental-health workers face risks of assaults and disease.

But the truth is, since 1970 – when unions pushed Congress to pass the Occupational Safety and Health Act – injury and fatality rates have fallen by two-thirds. U.S. workers are now less likely to die, get injured, or become ill on the job.

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In union jobs, we have more than laws to protect us from hazardous equipment, materials, and situations. Our contracts make sure we, as workers, have the training and equipment that keeps us safe. We're protected if we raise alerts about unsafe conditions. That's one reason why workplace fatality rates are 40 percent lower in states with full collective-bargaining rights.

Sources:

- Occupational Safety and Health Administration, "Commonly Used Statistics," August 2015
- AFL-CIO Safety and Health Department, "Death on the Job," April 2015, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics figures