

The Folks Who Brought You The Weekend

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THE

LABOR MOVEMENT

THE FOLKS WHO BROUGHT YOU THE WEEKEND.



Ricardo Levins
Morales

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NIEHS WTP

- Superfund Worker Training Program
- *Superfund* Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA)
- Section 126
- OSHA Standard
- Training Grant Program



Wesley, Charlotte, Engle

Love Canal Residents Hold Hostage 2 EPA Officials To Press Demands

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. (UPI) — Love Canal residents said Monday they were holding two federal officials as "hostages" and that they would be held until the White House authorizes the immediate relocation of more than 700 families.

No weapons were involved and no injuries were reported.

Lois Gibbs, president of the Love Canal Homeowners Association, said Dr. James Lucas and Frank Napol of the Environmental Protection Agency were being against their will at a home serving as the group's headquarters.

She said a telephone line was being kept open to receive any response from federal officials to the homeowner's demands.

No weapons were reported used and Lucas and Napol told reporters allowed in the house that they were complying with the association's instructions.

"We'll keep them fed, we'll keep them happy," Mrs. Gibbs said.

Niagara Falls police were at the scene but said they were denied access to the office by groups of homeowners blocking the two entrances to the house.

The residents were demanding immediate relocation because of an EPA study released Saturday showing chromosome damage in 11 of 36 Love Canal residents, a highly abnormal level. The chromosome aberrations can be an early warning of future health problems such as cancer and birth defects.

Federal officials said they wanted to further verify the results of the study before deciding whether to order relocations. They said there would be no decision before Wednesday.

"Why Wednesday? Why not today?" complained Mrs. Gibbs. "Why wait? We've paid enough. Move us into hotels and motels and place that cost onto the lawsuit against Hooker."

The health testing was originally conducted to gather evidence for the federal government's \$124.5 million lawsuit against the Hooker Chemical & Plastics Corp., which used the Love Canal as a toxic chemical dump more than 25 years ago. Hooker covered the site in 1953 and sold it to the city school board.

New York State has also filed a \$635 million lawsuit against Hooker.

Another resident, Phyllis Whitenight, underwent breast cancer surgery 5 years ago. She and her husband, Leonard, were told over the weekend that they were among the 11 residents whose blood showed evidence of chromosome damage.

"When I realized what was going on, I was weak, numb and nervous," Mrs. Whitenight said when asked how she reacted to the health report. "Leonard was just worried about me."

"In the past 6 years, at least seven people on our street contracted some form of cancer," she added. "Five of those were women with breast cancer."

Rioters Clash With Police In India

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Mobs demanding immediate expulsion of millions of minority settlers defied a curfew and

The news agency said 18 persons, mostly students, were arrested Monday and would be charged with assaulting public

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The explosion of the *Chemical Control Corporation* Site in Elizabeth, NJ

Earth Day,
April 1980

How much
irony can
you pack
into one
industrial
disaster?



Over 40,000 drums burned and firefighters paid the price

- Firefighters were contaminated cleaning up equipment
- Dermatitis
- High prevalence of respiratory problems
- IAFF asked NIOSH to initiate a HHE

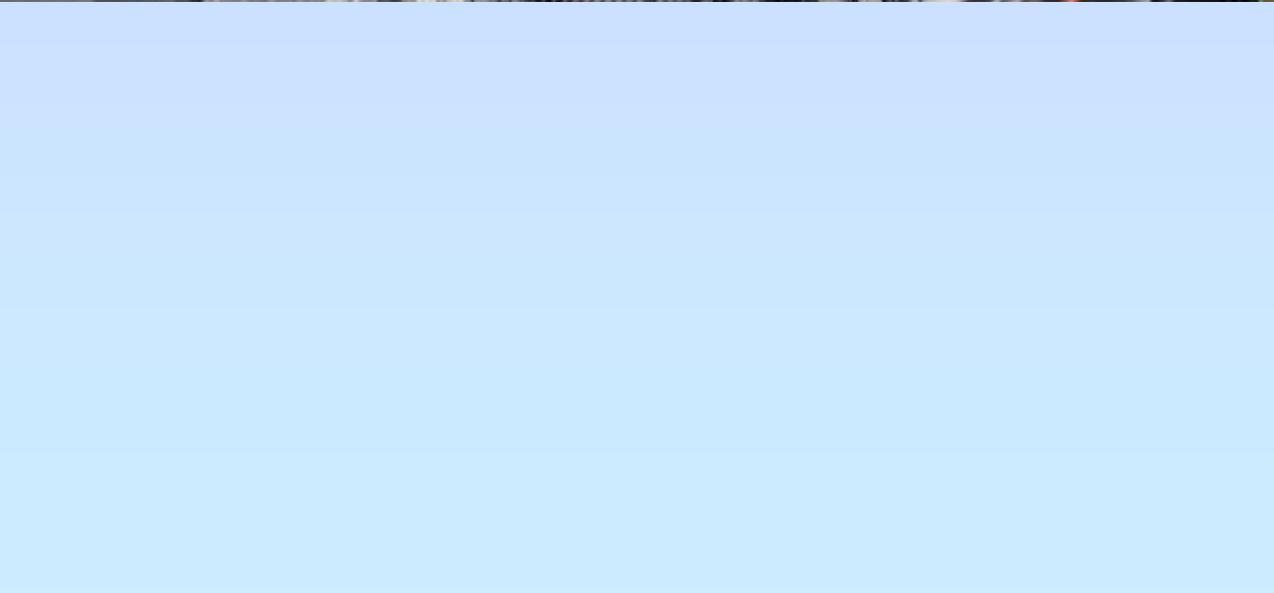


Who Does This Work

- Who does HAZWOPER work?
- If these workers are union members, what unions likely represent them?









1970s

- OSHA Environmental Network – or – Labor Environment Coalition
 - Mid 1970s, led by the AFL-CIO Industrial Union Division
 - Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) 1976
 - Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) 1976
 - Later - Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA – Superfund Law) 1980
 - Sierra Club, Audubon, Citizen Action, Environmental Action

1979 – Congressional Hearings on Hazardous Waste Disposal

- United Steelworkers
- Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers
- National Lead, Grief Brothers, Niagara Steel Finishing
- Grief Brothers made 55 gallon drums, purchased by Hooker Chemical Corp, which had dumped chemicals into Love Canal

- Representative Al Gore asked a union leader about jobs and the environment –
 - The union local leader replied, “No job is worth your life.”

AFL-CIO was concerned about worker exposures at the Love Canal cleanup

- Asked OSHA, EPA, and NIOSH to work on regulations and enforcement actions
- Saw that this was going to become a sizable industry with many risks for workers

IAFF – NIOSH HHE 1974

- International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) asked NIOSH to conduct a health hazard evaluation (HHE) of firefighters who were at the Universal Cooperatives, Inc. pesticide warehouse fire in Alliance, OH –



CERCLA Provisions

- AFL-CIO and several unions secure 3 sections of the law
 - 301(f), 104(f), 104 (g)
 - NIOSH helped them get the first two sections
 - 301(f) requires EPA, DOT, OSHA, and NIOSH to study and modify the National Contingency Plan to provide H&S measures for response action workers
- The sections in CERCLA led to the Four Agency Manual – NIOSH, DHHS, USCG, and EPA – health and safety for HAZWOPER

Preparing to Reauthorize and Amend the Superfund Law

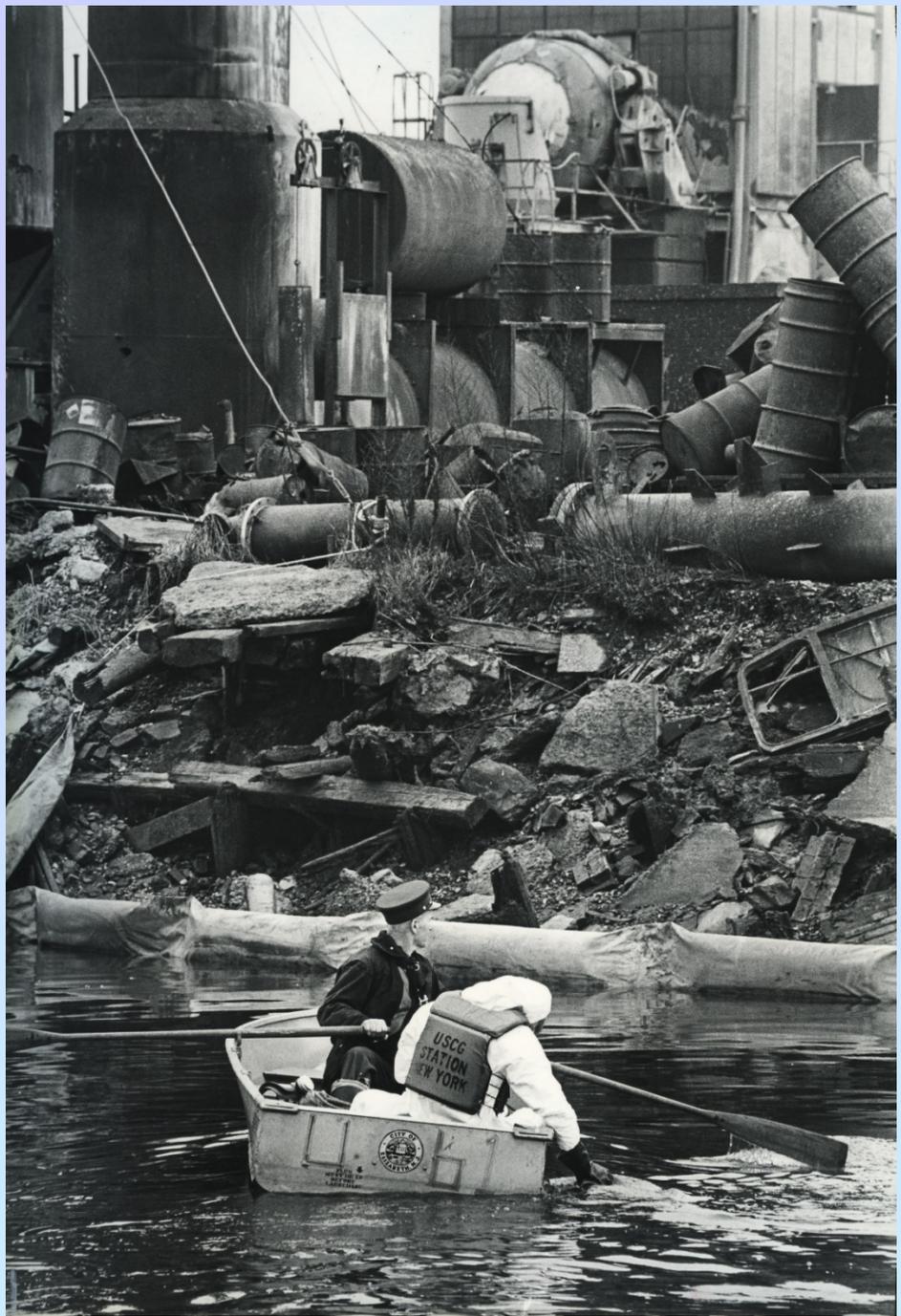
- Representatives James Florio (D, NJ) and John Dingell (D, MI) were moving this in the House.
- They approached Howard Samuel, President of Industrial Union Department of ALF-CIO
 - wanted labor support for Superfund Reauthorization
- Samuel brought on David Mallino, Sr. to work on this.
 - Mallino worked the hill and had been a lobbyist for labor
 - Mallino saw that the bills lacked worker H&S protection language
 - Decided to push to get these included – but was not thinking about a training program at that time

The Unions and Individuals

- IUOE president J.C. Turner
- Donald Ellisburg – an attorney working with LIUNA
- Mitch Warren and others in the Laborers-AGC Education and Training Fund
- Shelly Samuels of the IUD
- Ben Hill, H&S director IUOE (IUOE had a training center in NJ that was delivering some hazardous waste training)
- Peg Seminario – H&S Dept. AFL-CIO
- Rich Duffy – IAFF
 - “First time that the industrial unions, building trades, and a public sector union worked together on a project like this.”

Mallino asked Congressional Allies to Hold Hearings

- Hearings about hazardous waste exposures and OSHA failures
- Labor unions that presented testimony
 - International Brotherhood of Teamsters
 - IAFF
 - LIUNA
 - IUOE
 - AFL-CIO H&S
 - OCAW
 - ICWU



Shaped the Legislation

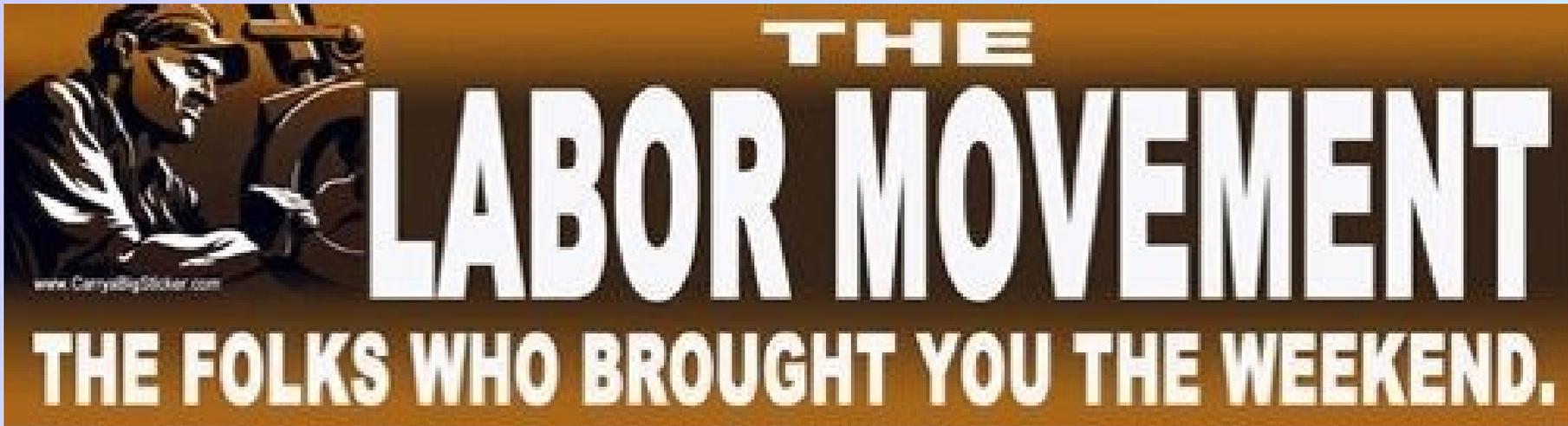
- Developed an outline that became Section 126 of SARA
- Came up with the figure of \$10 Million for the training grant program
- Labor got the Congress to require OSHA to create the HAZWOPER standard

And here we are today – 30 years later



Our Responsibility

- We are here because trade unions – the labor movement built the resources to get resources that can improve working class life
- Priorities were established for the health and safety of workers and the communities in which they live
- This is part of our history
- When we conduct training, we can inform workers of that history
- We can say:



And the WTP and the OSHA
HAZWOPER Standard - and
lots more H&S training