



The Trade & Transit Times

Your Guide to Skilled Trade and Transportation Union News

- White House Measures to Combat Extreme Heat Are Insufficient
- The 2023 UAW Strike: A Bold Move for Better Terms
- Reflecting on Independence Day and Labor Day



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White House Measures to Combat Extreme Heat Are Insufficient and Require Urgent Improvement

The National Council for Occupational Safety and Health (National COSH) has declared the recent measures announced by the White House to protect workers from extreme heat as insufficient. The organization is calling for more aggressive actions to address the deadly risks associated with extreme heat, which are intensified by climate change.

Insufficient Measures in the Face of Growing Threats

Jessica E. Martinez, co-executive director of National COSH, expressed concerns in a blog post, stating, “Tragically, workers are getting sick and dying every day from the extreme heat driven by climate change.” She called for bold actions from the President, Congress, federal OSHA, and state officials to reduce risks and save lives.



Marcy Goldstein-Gelb, also a co-executive director, emphasized the preventable nature of heat-related illnesses and deaths. “We are not helpless in the face of the triple-digit temperatures that are breaking thermometers all over the globe,” she said.

Call for Stronger Regulatory Actions

President Biden has increased enforcement and inspections for heat safety violations under the ‘general duty’ clause of the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Act. However, Martinez and Goldstein-Gelb insist on specific standards for heat stress to offer better protections.

Martinez urges employers not to wait for the regulatory process to conclude before taking preventive measures, warning that without them, more workers will become sick and die from extreme heat.

“Millions of workers who build our homes, bring food to our tables, and provide other essential goods and services are at risk right now,” Martinez emphasized. “Our government, at all levels, must respond – right now.”

Specific Recommendations

National COSH leaders outlined steps to enhance worker protection:

- Immediate Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) on heat stress by federal OSHA.
- Congressional mandate for an interim federal OSHA standard on heat stress.
- Accelerated creation of a permanent federal safety standard.
- Swift establishment of state-level standards in the 45 states currently lacking them.



COSH

**National Council
for Occupational
Safety and Health
(National COSH)**

www.nationalcosh.org

Practical Measures to Protect Workers

National COSH advocates for several practical, evidence-based measures to protect workers from extreme heat:

- Adequate rest breaks
- Plentiful fresh water
- Access to shade
- Reduced work schedules
- Shifting work to cooler parts of the day
- Buddy systems to ensure no worker is left alone

According to the COSH, these measures must be implemented now in all indoor and outdoor settings with extreme heat.

United Auto Workers (UAW) Strike: A Bold Move for Better Terms

On September 15, 2023, the United Auto Workers (UAW) initiated a historic strike against Ford, General Motors, and Stellantis to demand fair wages and job security.



Economic Demands: Central to the strike were demands for a 20% immediate wage increase, totaling a 46% rise over time, and the restoration of traditional pensions and retiree healthcare. UAW President Shawn Fain argued that these demands were justified by significant profit increases for automakers, which he claimed were unfairly benefiting executives and shareholders over workers.

Industry Changes and Job Security: The ongoing transition to electric vehicles (EVs) added urgency to the strike. The UAW

sought assurances that new EV-related jobs would be unionized and offer wages and benefits comparable to traditional auto manufacturing roles. This was crucial to prevent job losses and wage reductions as the industry evolves.

Strategic Striking: Employing a strategic “stand-up” strike approach, the UAW initially targeted key plants to maximize pressure while conserving its strike fund. This method allowed the union to maintain momentum and visibility during the negotiations.

For more information visit:

Voice of America: <https://www.voanews.com/a/workers-strike-at-all-3-detroit-automakers-in-new-tactic/7271024.html>

Bridge Michigan: <https://www.bridgemi.com/business-watch/uaw-strike-4-things-know-michigan-braces-it-spread>



United Auto Workers (UAW): <https://uaw.org>

Reflecting on Independence Day and Labor Day

As we transition into the fall season, it's important to take a moment to reflect on two significant holidays that resonate deeply with our values and history as skilled trade and transportation professionals.



Independence Day: The holiday provides an opportunity to recognize and honor the vital contributions of the skilled labor and transportation sectors to the nation's progress. Their efforts ensure the functionality and connectivity of communities, bolster the economy, and enhance the quality of life for all citizens.



Labor Day: For unionized workers, this day is a celebration of solidarity and collective bargaining achievements. It's a time to reflect on the strides made in improving working conditions and benefits through union efforts, emphasizing the ongoing need for advocacy and unity.



The Association of Skilled Trade and Transportation Unions (ASTTU) is a not-for-profit founded in 2019. We are committed to the advancement, protection, and betterment of skilled trade and transportation unions and the workers that they represent.

Unite for Strength: Join as a Union Leader

Join a broad network of trade and transportation unions to expand your union's effectiveness. Collaborate with fellow leaders to increase the collective voice and influence of your members, building a more resilient community. You'll have access to extensive resources, advocacy tools, and opportunities that strengthen your union's impact and unity.

As a union leader, you'll gain:

- Valuable voluntary benefits for your members
- Enhanced networking and collaboration opportunities
- Robust advocacy and legislative support
- Access to industry insights and best practices

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ASTTU invites vendors passionate about advancing the union movement and enhancing our members' experiences. By becoming an approved vendor, you have the unique opportunity to present your products and services to a committed audience. Your contributions will significantly advance the skilled trades and transportation sectors, directly benefiting union members.

As an approved ASTTU vendor, you can:

- Present your products and services to a committed and attentive audience.
- Actively support the development and progress of the skilled trades and transportation sectors.

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