

**EUROPEAN CAMPAIGN ON SAFE MAINTENANCE**

# **National Inspection Day**

**26 October 2011**

**UNITE SAFETY REPS:**

**use your rights to  
inspect your workplace**



**Safety inspections save lives**

# SAFETY REPS' RIGHTS

**Unite safety reps are a key part of providing better health and safety for Unite members at work. Safety reps have specific rights enshrined in law, which enable them to:**

- **Inspect the workplace regularly.**
- **Investigate employee complaints concerning health and safety issues at work.**
- **Investigate accidents, dangerous occurrences and potential hazards.**
- **Represent workers on health, safety, and welfare matters to their employer.**
- **Inspect health and safety documents.**
- **Receive information from HSE Inspectors.**
- **Establish a joint union-management Safety Committee.**
- **Receive time off to fulfil these rights and receive training.**

**Employers are required to consult safety reps, especially about:**

- **Measures introduced at a workplace that may substantially affect health and safety.**
- **Arrangements for appointing health & safety competent persons and emergencies.**
- **Health & safety information required to be provided to employees.**
- **Health & safety training arrangements for the workforce, such as induction training.**
- **New technology introduced and planned, regarding consequences to health & safety.**

**Employers must provide safety reps with the resources to carry out their role. ACAS suggest:**

- **Room with desk and chairs at work, for carrying out interviews and meetings.**
- **Secure facilities for storing documents.**
- **Access to internal and external telephones, word processor (now IT facilities).**
- **Access to duplicating facilities.**
- **Notice board.**

**Other facilities should include copies of relevant statutes, Regulations, Approved Codes of Practice and HSE guidance, copies of safety journals, and legal and international standards that are relevant to the workplace.**

**[www.unitetheunion.org](http://www.unitetheunion.org)**

