

# FIX THE HAZARDS

## DON'T PAPER THEM OVER

### *Season of Safety Campaign*



Message 2 • May 2011

### **April's Toll**

Making paper is a hazardous business. On April 5 a USW member at Marcal Paper LLC in Elmwood Park, N.J., was critically injured when his arm was caught in a piece of equipment. Doctors had to amputate his arm and hand. Ten days later a 25- year-old member of the Teamsters bargaining unit died while trying to fix a jammed baler at the Smurfit-Stone recycling facility in Renton, Wash. She left behind a child.



### **Papered Over**

Serious injuries and fatalities like the ones above in the paper sector prompted our union to conduct the largest safety survey ever done by labor or management in the industry's history.

The results are in a report entitled "Papered Over," which can be found at [www.usw.org/paperworkers](http://www.usw.org/paperworkers). The report reveals a need for finding hazards in our workplaces so we can fix them and connect them to incident causes. Below are the seven key areas for action. We will focus on each of the findings in the months ahead.

## **The Workers Speak: 7 Key Papered Over Findings**

1. Union Involvement in Safety and Health: Extremely Limited
2. Work Design: Work pushed around safety hazards instead of fixing them
3. Process Safety and Emergency Response: A majority of sites not prepared to respond
4. Combustible and Toxic Dusts: Dust not adequately controlled in many mills
5. Machine Guarding and Lockout/Tagout: Unguarded machine hazards the norm; repeated dangers during threading, management does not always insure LOTO
6. Counterproductive Behavior-Based Safety (BBS) programs- In place at majority of sites with observation – no hazards focus
7. Safety and Health Training- An overwhelming lack of confidence workforce is receiving necessary training

**Next month we'll report out on what some proactive USW Paper Sector locals are doing to address these findings.**