

LABOR DAY 2020

FROM THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION TO THE INDUSTRIAL INTERNET OF THINGS TO COVID-19

Here is a look back at the milestones and innovations that have fueled workplace safety and health in North America and around the world.

SPRING 1882
Peter J. McGuire, a vice president of the American Federation of Labor, proposed a "general holiday for the laboring classes" to the Central Labor Union (CLU) of New York.

SEPTEMBER 5, 1884
The Central Labor Union (CLU) of New York held a public parade of various labor organizations. Subsequently, CLU Secretary Matthew Maguire proposed that a national Labor Day holiday be held on the first Monday of each September to mark this successful public demonstration.

DECEMBER 1872
The origins of Labour Day in Canada can be traced back to December 1872 when a parade was staged in support of the Toronto Typographical Union's strike for a 58-hour work week.

MAY 4, 1886
At a time when most American laborers – adults and children – worked 12 or more hours a day/seven days a week, thousands of workers protested across the United States to demand an eight-hour workday. In what became known as the Haymarket incident, police in Chicago attacked peaceful protests and a planning meeting, killing six.

JUNE 14, 1872
Canada's Parliament passed the Trade Unions Act, which legalized trade unions.

MAY 3, 1887
Explosives were laid improperly deep underground at the Nanaimo mine in Nanaimo, British Columbia. The resulting explosion killed 150 miners.

JUNE 28, 1894
U.S. President Grover Cleveland signed a law making the first Monday in September of each year a national holiday.

MAY 11, 1894
The Pullman strike - The bloody Pullman strike of 1894 catalyzed the establishment of an official Labor Day holiday in the United States.

MARCH 25, 1911
Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire - The turning point for occupational safety and health arguably was the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in lower Manhattan on March 25, 1911, when 146 garment workers lost their lives attempting to escape the burning building.

1914
The Workmen's Compensation Act, the first social insurance legislation in Canadian history, was adopted by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

1960'S
Disabling injuries in the United States increased 20 percent during the decade, and 14,000 workers were dying on the job each year.

1930S
A subsidiary of Union Carbide was hired to drill a tunnel through a mountain in the Hawk's Nest area near Gauley Bridge, W.Va. The mountain's rock had a very high silica content and workers spent 8 to 10 hours a day breathing the silica dust without any respiratory protection. Hundreds of workers died in the course of the project and were buried in unmarked graves.

DECEMBER 29, 1970
President Richard M. Nixon signed The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.

APRIL 1971
OSHA opens for business, covering 56 million workers at 3.5 million workplaces. Today, 105 million private-sector workers and employers at 6.9 million sites look to OSHA for guidance on workplace safety and health issues.

1992
Intelex, global leader in the development of EHS and quality software, was founded.

MAY 29, 1971
OSHA published its first consensus standards.

2010 - 2020
The rise of the Industrial Internet of Things (IIOT), which refers to interconnected sensors, instruments, tablets, smart phones and other devices networked together with computers' industrial applications to collect what is known as "big data."

2015 - 2017
High-tech wearables that monitor workers' movements and even vital signs become more prevalent in the workplace.

2020 - ?
COVID-19, a global pandemic changes the way we work, possibly forever.