

# Confined Space

News and Commentary on Workplace Health & Safety, Labor and Politics

*Do you think that workplace health and safety is more than just filing OSHA complaints and attending meetings? That it's also about politics in Washington, politics in the State House and politics in the workplace*



**THIS WORKPLACE  
DOES NOT GIVE  
A SHIT FOR SAFETY**

*Do you want to know what's going on the world of workplace safety and health? Do you need help illuminating the contradictions, excesses and absurdities that are being used to attack your right to a safe workplace?*

*Then you should be reading*

## Confined Space

<http://spewingforth.blogspot.com>

(or just Google "confined space blog")

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**Sunday, April 10, 2005**

## **BP Amoco Texas City Update: Plant Owners Aware of Venting and Trailer Location Hazards**

We're learning more about some of the causes of the Texas City BP Amoco explosion that killed 15 workers last month. We're also learning that the plant had been warned previously about the same hazardous conditions.

**Tuesday, December 02, 2003**

## **Who really killed Dr. Erlinda Ursua?**

Who or what is to blame for the death of [Dr. Erlinda Ursua, bludgeoned to death](#) by a 37-year-old patient, Rene Pavonan, during an exam November 19 at John George Psychiatric Pavilion? Hospital administration, the California budget system or Arnold Schwarzenegger? Maybe all of the above.

**Saturday, March 19, 2005**

## **Of Fish and Men: Corporate Penalties and The Law**

One of the favorite anecdotes told by critics of OSHA's ineffectiveness is that the penalty for causing the death of a worker by willfully violating safety laws is half the maximum for harassing a wild burro on federal lands.

Over the last few days, we've learned some other things. The penalty for killing fish and crabs is far higher than the penalty for killing a worker. And the penalty for running a yellow light is far higher (proportionately) than the penalty for systematically hiring and abusing undocumented immigrant workers.

**Saturday, November 15, 2003**

## **Man Killed In Trench Collapse. "Nothing could have prevented it," Says Office Manager**

Give me a break. I'd stake a considerable amount of money on betting that *something* could have prevented it -- like maybe complying with the OSHA trenching and excavation standard....

**Thursday, October 23, 2003**

## **REACH For Chemical Safety**

*Every year, more than 60,000 people in the United States die from preventable diseases caused by exposure to chemicals and other agents in the workplace.... Together, workplace illnesses and injuries are estimated to cost more than \$145 billion annually in the United States, on par with the cost of all cancers combined or the total cost of heart disease and stroke.*

This sounds like something that our compassionate government would want to do something about, doesn't it?

[Well, the European Union is about to address this problem through its REACH program](#), an *shocking* idea that tosses out the notion, promoted by the chemical industry, that chemicals should be considered innocent until proven guilty. ...