

Five of the women sued the company for their medical and dental bills. Eventually, the company settled, but the five women all died in the 1930s. Another woman sued and won a case against the company in 1938. Because the media picked up the story, and companies saw that they could be sued by employees that were hurt on the job, companies began to become safer. By 1949 the government had even made laws about it!


Radium girls started coming down with scary medical problems - teeth falling out, infertility, and even cancers!



Radium Girls working in a factory.

The company owners and scientists, though, came to a point with their lips or tongues was totally safe, to just make the brushes. Instead, they told the women that radium was totally safe, to just make the brushes a waste of materials.

were hired to paint the radium onto the watches, but the company noticed that getting the paintbrushes to a point with rags or water were dangerous!




called "radium girls" painted with this new chemical. Women watches to be made with dials and hands very excited about this, and ordered exciting chemical called Radium, which caused things to glow! The military was Corporation (USRC) worked with a new and Starting in 1917 and continuing through the 1920s, the United States Radium

**Chemicals Weren't Always Safe**

**The Trump administration is Working to:**


- rescind the "persuader rule" which will allow corporations to union-bust in secret
- make it illegal for employers to voluntarily recognize unions
- eliminate child worker protections so that teenagers will be able to work more dangerous jobs
- allow employers to retaliate against union organizers

To learn more about Project 2025 and how it will affect workers, unions, and more visit:  
<https://betterinaunion.org/project-2025>



# The True Cost of Worker Safety

Three stories of children, tragedy, and outright lies that helped shape the rights for workers that we have today, and how the administration is trying to take them away!



Protest and mourning for victims of the fire.

This horrific tragedy led to more organization of workers, more calls for laws made factories to be inspected, and factories to install safety features like sprinklers and safe exits.



Bodies of people who jumped.


Some tried to escape through the fire escape, but it was rickety and collapsed under the weight of just 20 people. Left with no other options, some people survived by heading to the roof, while others gave up and jumped from the 8th, 9th, and 10th floor windows to avoid the flames.

In 1911, a fire started on the 8th floor of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. With no fire alarms, workers on the 9th and 10th floors learned about the fire after it had spread. Some tried to go down the two indoor stairwells, but found the fire had spread into one stairwell and that the doors to the second stairwell were locked to prevent theft. cars.

**Buildings Weren't Always Safe**

**Children Weren't Always Safe**

During the late 1800s, it became popular to hire children for work in mines, factories, and farms. Children were less likely to join a union, and cost less to pay. The work was often hard and dangerous - children faced illness, damage to their bodies, and even death! In 1911, more than 2 million children under 16 were working in the US.



Youngest workers in Mississippi Cotton Mill 1911 - Lewis Hines

From 1911-1916, a photographer named Lewis Hine traveled through the US, and took pictures of children working in terrible conditions. It was a dangerous job - factory bosses and foremen did NOT want people to see how the children were being treated.



Young boys work in Pennsylvania Coal Mine 1911 - Lewis Hines

Hine was threatened with violence and even death, but he learned ways to sneak into factories to get pictures. He even sometimes posed as a Bible salesman! His photographs were a huge help to organizations that fought against child labor, and finally in 1938 laws were passed that kept children safer.