



**UNITED STEELWORKERS
LOCAL UNION 3657**
60 BOULEVARD OF THE ALLIES, ROOM 706
PITTSBURGH, PA 15222

Health Safety & Environment Committee January 2016

1. The local HSE committee is planning to screen a film on environmental toxins, "The Human Experiment": to be shown in two parts, shown on February 16th and 23rd in the 2nd floor classroom. We request no more than \$300 to purchase lunch for both screenings. We will request RSVPs on our announcement. A second movie, "Stink" is not yet available.
2. We have asked John Perquin to recirculate Bob Rootes' email from 2012 requesting that USW employees refrain from using fragrance
3. ADA follow-up: We celebrate the release of the report; and are requesting any missing information on the 10th floor and other missing floors.
4. Print Shop: We are still missing much of the correspondence and information on the hazards in the print shop.
5. Elevator Cleaners. On Tuesday, 1/19/16, Jerry, the carpenter, was cleaning the elevator with strong smelling chemicals. At least 4 members complained. John Lepely has sent a written request to Bob Rootes requesting the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS).
6. Our committee and our local union president have raised the need to convene the contractually required Joint Health, Safety and Environment Committee. This has been discussed with the Administration and we will continue to push for convening of this committee, which we believe will provide an ongoing forum for discussing and resolving health, safety and environmental concerns of our membership.



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To: 5 Gateway
Re: Health Problems from Fragrances and Sprays

Some people are highly sensitive to perfumes, colognes, hairsprays, scented candles and other chemicals in the air. Sensitive individuals can experience asthma attacks, allergic reactions and other symptoms. The condition affects both women and men.

A number of our brothers and sisters in 5 Gateway are sensitive. For them, working around fragrances and sprays is not just unpleasant – it can be a serious health risk. This problem is not confined to one office or one floor. The elevators can be particularly bad; everyone uses them, and they are small, poorly-ventilated spaces.

We would prefer not to establish a mandatory policy banning fragrances and sprays. Given the seriousness of the health risk, the International Union and Local Union 3657 will enter into negotiations about such a policy if it becomes necessary. But the best way to solve this problem is through union solidarity, and a concern for our brothers and sisters who suffer from chemical sensitivities. Therefore, we are asking you to take the following actions voluntarily:

- 1) Do not wear perfume or cologne at work.
- 2) Do not apply hairspray or sprayed-on deodorants, or use other spray products, at work. The problem is not just the scents; the propellants can cause symptoms as well. So far as we know, there's no problem with stick or roll-on deodorants, or with unscented lotions.
- 3) Do not use air fresheners in the office. And please remember that candles and incense are already banned due to the fire risk.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, contact the Health, Safety and Environment Department.