



Be on the **safe** side

Be a safety rep and make
your workplace safer

“We believe that all workers deserve to be treated fairly at work. This includes fair pay, favourable terms and conditions and well managed health and safety conditions”

Every worker has the right to leave work at the end of the day, in as good or better physical, emotional and mental condition as when they arrived.

Unison has over 5,000 accredited safety reps who strive to support our members at work and work with employers to minimise safety risks, harm and accidents.

In the Environment Agency each of the nine Unison Branches across the country elect a Health and Safety Officer onto their Branch Executive Committee, our current officer is **Sarah Tedder**.

Earlier this year our Area Director in Thames, Julia Simpson endorsed all training for Trade Union activists wishing to become health and safety reps.

Unison Thames Branch are asking our members to join the National Unison campaign to have a Unison safety rep on every floor in every office, at every depot, in every lab and in every other building we work from.

We aim to raise awareness of health and safety issues at work and use our health and safety activists to campaign to improve working conditions for all.

The words Health and Safety may conjure up visions of clipboards, regulations and paperwork, but it's really not like that.

Being a Safety rep means you will be playing a crucial role in making sure your workplace is safe, secure and clean for all your colleagues and service users.

You'll also gain new skills through the excellent Unison learning program which hopes to return to face to face courses as well as online learning in 2022, all expenses paid by the branch and time off to attend approved by the Environment Agency.

It's your chance to make a real difference so look out for training courses in the New Year and let Sarah or myself know that you wish to attend.

Andy Theaker, Unison Thames Branch Chair, Dec 2021.