

# NCFO News Bulletin

March 22, 2010

## Two NCFO Members Killed in Louisville Plant Explosion

It is with great shock and grief that I write to inform you that two long-time members of Chapter 320 died as a result of an explosion in the Carbide Industries plant in Louisville, KY, Monday afternoon.

Negotiating Committee Member Steven Nichols, 59, an NCFO member since 1991, died immediately. Jorge “Louie” Medina, 57, a member since 1997, died during the night from third-degree burns over 90 percent of his body

The union is reaching out to support the families of our two fallen brothers in the wake of this terrible tragedy, and we hope you all will keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

We’re also going to make sure that the company provides all the necessary grief counseling and other Employee Assistance to the 80 NCFO members at the plant, who have lost these two union brothers, co-workers and friends.

I trust that complete information will be forthcoming as the investigation of what caused the explosion continues.

The *Louisville Courier-Journal* reports that this plant—that utilizes and produces dangerous chemicals—was inspected three times in the last decade. Inspections of this kind of facility ought to be much more frequent.

Of course, we all know that OSHA, both nationally and here in Kentucky, is way underfunding and understaffed.

I thus find it infuriating that the Republican leadership in Congress wants to slash OSHA funding by 20 percent or more.

The safety and health of American workers has to be the number one priority, especially in our factories and other higher-risk places of work.

I hope that the tragic deaths of brothers and Medina and Nichols will spur Kentucky and other elected representatives in Washington to remember that.

To read initial press accounts, go to:

<http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20110321/NEWS01/303210088/1001/NEWS>

<http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20110322/NEWS02/303220031/1001/NEWS/Second-worker-dies-following-explosion-Rubbertown-Carbide-plant?odyssey=nav|head>

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NCFO President