

# Worker Safety - The Triangle Fire Legacy : Triangle Shirtwaist Fire

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

On March 25, 1911, a small fire broke out in a bin of rags at the Triangle Shirtwaist factory on New York City's Lower East Side. The profitable business heralded as a model of efficiency operated in a modern fireproof building. Yet in less than an hour, 146 people—most of them young immigrant Jewish and Italian women in their teens and early 20s—died, trapped by blocked exit doors and faulty fire escapes.

**The Tragedy.** Identify six factors that contributed to the deaths of the 146 workers.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

**Government Responds.** Public outcry after the fire prompted New York City to impose tougher building codes and more stringent factory inspections to be sure the rules were being followed. List four of the new city codes for factories.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

New York State created a commission in 1911 to investigate both the Triangle fire and industrial working conditions in general. The commission's 1914 report called for widespread changes. After initially balking, the state's legislature eventually approved additional guidelines to ensure the safety of New York workers. Many other states followed.

**The Role of Unions.** Before and after the fire, workers also looked to unions to help them address their health and safety concerns. Identify two actions the unions took to increase worker protections.

- 1.
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