



USMWF

United Support & Memorial for Workplace Fatalities

**July 25, 2013 Written Comments for the
CSB Public Meeting on Key Safety Recommendations
and Initiating the CSB Most Wanted Program
Tammy Miser**

As I look back at the very first Congressional Testimony I had given in 2008ⁱ and I made a statement, “No matter how much time goes by the pain never goes away, it never fades and the incident never dies. Our (the family-member victims) losses are a live long needleless sentence because a few companies couldn’t or wouldn’t do what was right.” I hold on firm to this belief. It has been 9 years since I lost my brother Shawn in an aluminum dust explosion. It pains me each and every time I hear of another dust explosion. I know what the families, coworkers and surrounding communities will have to endure.

The Imperial Sugarⁱⁱ plant explosion in 2008 is a one of the best arguments we have for supporting nothing less than a combustible dust regulation. It took 72 long agonizing days before some of the victims succumb to their injuries. Just a few days before then one victim was released leaving two still in critical care. To be honest I have no clue what happened to the last Imperial Sugar burn victim. There are no words to describe how savage this is, we would not allow this to go unnoticed if it were an animal. Imperial Sugar also had a facility in Gramercy, Louisiana which had to be issued imminent danger orders and shut down by OSHA until the plant was free of the very same hazard because they refused to do so voluntarily.

The facts are people are still dying from dust explosions with little repercussion. It is still just a cost of doing business and our government is giving them a green light. The question should be ***“Is it acceptable to knowingly allow workers and the surrounding community to be severely maimed or killed?”***

I say no and I wonder how many if ask would agree it is acceptable. This not a war, there are no casualties. We live in a country that allows all to pursue a dream and we are all entitled to do so but not at the expense of others life and limb.

ⁱ [Tammy Miser Testimony - House of Representatives, Education and Labor Committee hearing on HR 5522 "The Combustible Dust Fire and Explosion Prevention Act of 2008." video](http://edwork.edgeboss.net/wmedia/edwork/fc/fc031208.wvx) (http://edwork.edgeboss.net/wmedia/edwork/fc/fc031208.wvx)

ⁱⁱ **TIMELINE: Imperial Sugar** (<http://savannahnow.com/news/2013-02-10/timeline-imperial-sugar-explosion-2008-until-today#UeV26Mp9ySo>)