

“We are Evolving! We Refuse to Dissolve! We are the TWU!”

You may have seen this statement around the base. It has meaning that is all too well known by the membership of this local. The members of the TWU at the Tulsa Maintenance base have a better understanding of the word **EVOLVING** than many through out the USA. We have been watching the Automotive industry get banged around in Michigan, and the effects on the rest of the nation due to the decisions made by the Big Auto Makers. We have seen havoc on the Legacy Airlines as well. With the demands on a Quality product, they simply cannot ask the customer to pay for these increases and remain competitive.

Other Legacy carriers have taken the road of bankruptcy that relieved them of many debts which includes, reduced pay and benefits to the people that helped build those carriers to the status they had become. We, the TWU here at American Airlines, have always made the decision to do our part at times of crisis. In 2003 we voted to ratify a concessionary agreement with American. We did not take this position lightly. We could have chosen the road to bankruptcy just as the others, yet we made the decision to look forward to the future and keep American Airlines in business.

There was a time when the TWU made the statement that "The Company has the right to run itself into the ground if they want to." This has come to pass as well and the people of Local 514 have taken on the company at their own level. We now have inserted our Union Brothers and Sisters into areas where decisions are being made related to **OUR WORK**. We now have a voice in the process. Although, this is a huge leap for a Union / Company relationship, it has helped to keep our jobs, and even brought work into American Airlines.

We have shown that we **REFUSE** to **DISSOLVE**.

We must always remember that there would be no need for Unions if the work place would just treat the employee with a Safe Workplace, Dignity on the job and a Living Wage.

- We have noticed a decline in injuries, which might lead us to believe that Safety is being addressed.
- We have noticed that we have fewer issues with the mistreatment of members on the job.
- We have given our wages back in order to be successful as an Airline and Maintenance Facility.

Since we as Employees have not seen that all the above have been addressed, it looks like our Union, the TWU, will be needed for some time to come.

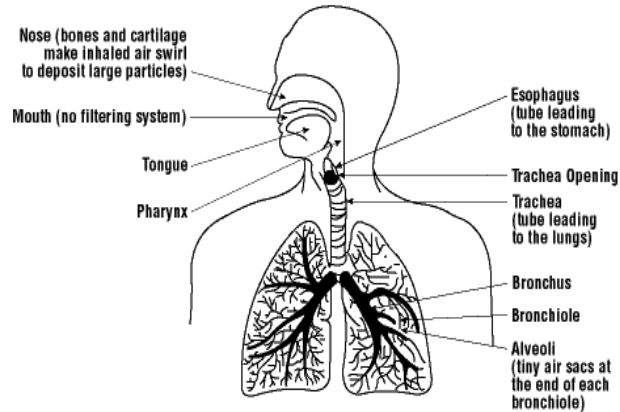
As long as there is **CORPORATE GREED**, we will continue to exist.
We are the TWU

TWU Local 514, Health and Safety Corner

“It’s Only Dust”

What are the lungs?

The lungs are the organs of breathing: they are responsible for bringing oxygen from the atmosphere into the body through a series of branching air tubes and exchanging it for carbon dioxide that is released back into the atmosphere. The lungs are constantly exposed to danger from the dusts we breathe. Luckily, the lungs have another function - they have defense mechanisms that protect them by removing dust particles from the respiratory system. For example, during a lifetime, a coal miner may inhale 1,000 g of dust into his lungs. When doctors examine the lungs of a miner after death, they find no more than 40 g of dust. Such a relatively small residue illustrates the importance of the lungs' defenses, and certainly suggests that they are quite effective. On the other hand, even though the lungs can clear themselves, excessive inhalation of dust may result in disease.



airways where there are no cilia is attacked by special cells called macrophages. These are extremely important for the defense of the lungs. They keep the air sacs clean. Macrophages virtually swallow the particles. Then the macrophages, in a way which is not well understood, reach the part of the airways that is covered by cilia. The wavelike motions of the cilia move the macrophages which contain dust to the throat, where they are spat out or swallowed. Besides macrophages, the lungs have another system for the removal of dust. The lungs can react to the presence of germ-bearing

particles by producing certain proteins. These proteins attach to particles to neutralize them. Dusts are tiny solid particles scattered or suspended in the air. The particles are "inorganic" or "organic," depending on the source of the dust. Inorganic dusts can come from grinding metals or minerals such as rock or soil. Examples of inorganic dusts are silica, asbestos, and coal. Organic dusts originate from plants or animals.

What happens when we breathe in dust?

The lungs are protected by a series of defense mechanisms in different regions of the respiratory tract. When a person breathes in, particles suspended in the air enter the nose, but not all of them reach the lungs. The nose is an efficient filter. Most large particles are stopped in it, until they are removed mechanically by blowing the nose or sneezing. Some of the smaller particles succeed in passing through the nose to reach the windpipe and the dividing air tubes that lead to the lungs. These tubes are called bronchi and bronchioles. All of these airways are lined by cells. The mucus they produce catches most of the dust particles. Tiny hairs called cilia, covering the walls of the air tubes, move the mucus upward and out into the throat, where it is either coughed up and spat out, or swallowed. The air reaches the tiny air sacs (alveoli) in the inner part of the lungs with any dust particles that avoided the defenses in the nose and airways. The air sacs are very important because through them, the body receives oxygen and releases carbon dioxide. Dust that reaches the sacs and the lower part of the

How can we protect the lungs from dust?

To avoid respiratory or other problems caused by exposure to dust, hazardous substances should be substituted with non-hazardous substances. Where substitution is not possible, other engineering control methods should be introduced. Some examples are: use of wet processes, enclosure of dust-producing processes under negative air pressure (slight vacuum compared to the air pressure outside the enclosure), exhausting air containing dust through a collection system before emission to the atmosphere, use of vacuums instead of brooms, good housekeeping, efficient storage and transport, and controlled disposal of dangerous waste. Use of personal protective equipment may be vital, but it should nevertheless be the last resort of protection. Personal protective equipment should not be a substitute for proper dust control and should be used only where dust control methods are not yet effective or are inadequate. Workers themselves, through education, must understand the need to avoid the risks of dust.