

Workplace Safety Group

April 2009

Monthly News e-Letter

SafeWork Academy

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DON'T SAY IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN!

With only a few weeks left before an eager set of young workers head out to new jobs or start their first ever summer jobs, employers need to ensure they are prepared. Preparation includes knowing what the law says. The Occupational Health and Safety Act and the Canada Labour Code, Part II both include rules that apply to orientation and training of workers.

New workers of any age are up to four times more likely to be hurt during their first month on the job. Evidence proves that new workers of any age are at greater risk for workplace injuries than adults. The social and economic impact of these injuries can be enormous because these young people could experience more years of disability than adults when an injury results in permanent disability.

Ministry of Labour inspectors place special emphasis on new worker safety in the manufacturing sector as well as in service sector locations such as retail stores, wholesalers, restaurants, service outlets and enterprises involved in tourism.

A regular part of an inspector's duties is to determine whether proper employer orientation, training and supervision are in place when visiting a workplace. Where there are new and young workers, inspectors will pay special attention to what safety measures are in place to prevent injuries to this vulnerable group of workers.

Whether they are new, young or have many years on the job, all workers have the right to refuse work that may endanger them or others.

DID YOU KNOW

- ⇒ Every year over 50,000 young workers report injuries to WSIB/WCB
- ⇒ Young workers often do not recognize or are unaware of hazards
- ⇒ Young workers do not ask the right questions for fear of appearing stupid
- ⇒ As a supervisor you are legally responsible for your workers
- ⇒ Failing to comply with OHSA could subject you to a fine or jail term
- ⇒ Young workers are learning about their workplace rights and responsibilities
- ⇒ Young workers are easier to train and eager to work

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

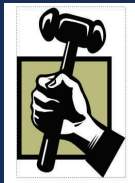
- ◆ Spend the time to explain, train and supervise
- ◆ Set and explain safety rules and ensure everyone follows them
- ◆ Ensure hazards are explained and job-specific training is completed before work is assigned
- ◆ Explain the importance of reporting of unsafe conditions and concerns so immediate correction can be undertaken
- ◆ Make yourself available to answer questions
- ◆ Lead by setting good examples wearing required protective equipment and reinforcing safety

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IN-CLASS Health & Safety Courses Located In A City Near You!



Due Diligence & Joint Health and Safety Committee Level 1/Level 2 certification courses are now available in different locations in Ontario. Ottawa, Belleville, Mississauga, Burlington and Parry Sound. You can check out our website, www.workplacesafetygroup.com, under in-class training. If you have any further questions please feel free to contact our office.



Following are the top seven dangers to young workers and the types of jobs where they are at risk.

The Danger	# of young workers injured/year	Types of Jobs
Lifting objects -overexertion causing sprains, strains, tears	1000	Retail & grocery clerks, labourers, material handlers, shippers & receivers
Working at heights	700	Jobs using ladders, stairs, scaffolding
Working with knives	500	Cooks, food service workers, retail clerks, shelf stockers
Working with hot substances/objects	400	Hospitality & service industries
Using mobile equipment/ motor vehicles	250	Jobs requiring driving, riding, operating or proximity to mobile equipment
Working with food slicers	150	Deli clerks, cooks, food services, supermarket workers
Working near running machinery	125	Manufacturing, construction, machine operators, bakers



Questions, Concerns, Comments?
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