Preventing Deaths and Injuries of Adolescent Workers

WARNING!
Each year, approximately 70 adolescents die from injuries at work. Hundreds more are hospitalized, and tens of thousands require treatment in hospital emergency rooms.

The following types of work are especially hazardous to adolescents:
- Working in or around motor vehicles
- Operating tractors and other heavy equipment
- Working near electrical hazards such as overhead power lines while using poles, ladders, pipes, or cranes
- Working in retail and service businesses where there is a risk of robbery-related homicide
- Working on ladders, scaffolds, roofs, or construction sites
- Working around cooking appliances
- Continuous manual lifting and lifting of heavy objects

EMPLOYERS
- Comply with child labor laws and occupational safety and health regulations that apply to your business.
- Assess and eliminate hazards for adolescent workers.
- Train adolescent workers to recognize hazards and use safe work practices. Routinely verify that they are using these skills.
- Evaluate equipment used by adolescents to be sure that it is legal and safe for their use.
- Make sure that adolescent workers are appropriately supervised to prevent injuries and hazardous exposures.
- Ask supervisors and experienced workers to help develop an injury and illness prevention program.

Please tear out and post. Distribute copies to workers.

and to help identify and solve safety and health problems.

PARENTS
- Take an active role in the employment decisions of your children.
- Discuss the types of work involved and the training and supervision provided by the employer.

EDUCATORS
- Know the Federal and State child labor laws if you are responsible for signing work permits.
- Talk to students about safety and health hazards in the workplace and their responsibilities as workers.
- Make sure that school-based work experience programs provide jobs in safe and healthful environments and supply information about workers' legal rights and responsibilities.

ADOLESCENTS
- Be aware that you have the right to work in a safe and healthful environment.
- Learn to recognize hazards at work.
- Participate in training programs at work or request training if none is offered.
- Seek information about safe work practices from your employer and the State department of labor.
- Use safe work practices.
- Know that you have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Labor when you feel your rights are being violated or your safety is in jeopardy.
Call 1-800-35-NIOSH (1-800-356-4674) for additional information or for free single copies of the complete NIOSH ALERT: Preventing Deaths and Injuries of Adolescent Workers [DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 95–125].

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

Delivering on the Nation's promise:
Safety and health at work
For all people
Through research and prevention

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