



PREVENTING WORK-RELATED BURN INJURY TO YOUTH WORKING IN FAST FOOD RESTAURANTS

- In 1998, there were an estimated 25,200 injuries to youths <18 employed in eating and drinking establishments, including fast food restaurants. Of these, 37 percent resulted from falls and 21 percent were burns.
- Injury risk factors for youth may include: inexperience, frequent job changes, a reluctance to ask questions, and a lack of awareness of their legal rights. Employers, parents, educators, and youth should know the safety rules governing teen employment, observe those rules, and make safety training a routine part of job training.
- Immediate and proper first-aid treatment at the job site can decrease the severity of a work-related burn. Flush the area with cool water to cool and clean the burn, cover the burn, and seek medical attention. Do not apply ice or burn cream during first-aid treatment.
- Restaurant supervisors and employees should be trained in basic first aid for burns. First-aid materials should be easily accessible.
- A work-related injury can stimulate positive discussion among employers and employees about steps that can be taken to reduce hazards and prevent injuries.
- Proven measures exist for preventing injuries in restaurants. Slip-resistant mats, coarse quarry tiles for flooring and frequent cleaning with a grease cutting agent can help prevent burns that result when an employee slips and comes into contact with a hot grill, stove, or fryer. Grill screens, bricks, and scrapers, when equipped with handles and used with gloves, can help prevent burns in employees who are cleaning or otherwise working with grills.

For more information on safe work for youth see the NIOSH Alert "Preventing Deaths, Injuries, and Illnesses of Young Workers" (www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2003-128/2003-128.htm).

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