

Topic: Young Worker Safety

This is the time of year when many young workers are entering the workforce for the first time. Young workers are at risk for workplace injuries. All of us have a stake in helping to keep these young workers safe. There are some consistent themes on why young workers get injured and the tasks most often associated with those injuries.

Some of the most frequent injuries occur when:

Lifting – Lifting injuries include sprains, strains and tears as well as back injuries

Working on elevated levels – These injuries might include sprains fractures or even death. Some high risk situations are ladders, stairs, platforms and scaffolds

Working with knives – Knives present a significant risk to young workers. Injuries might include cuts and possibly loss of fingers or a thumb

Working with hot substances or objects – Hot substances or objects present a risk of scalding or burns. Some estimates say that one in 40 injuries of this type result in third degree burns.

Mobile equipment or motor vehicles – Injuries can occur while operating the equipment or by being struck.

Food slicers – These injuries generally occur in restaurants or supermarkets and can result in cuts, lacerations or amputations.

Running equipment or machinery – There is a risk of getting “caught” in running equipment or machinery. High risk tasks are power tools, conveyers, and sawing drilling and milling machinery.

There are many factors that contribute to the risk of young workers being injured. Some of these factors are:

- Inexperience and lack of training
- lack of confidence
- lack of preparation for the workplace
- a sense of invincibility
- an unwillingness to ask questions
- distractions

TOOLBOX TALKS



Some things we can do to help prevent injuries:

- Proper training
- Discuss the hazards they might encounter
- Make sure they have proper PPE that fits well
- Encourage them to ask questions
- Make sure they know the location of emergency equipment such as fire extinguishers, eye wash stations, alarms and emergency exits
- Lead by example

Conclusion

Working safely is a team effort. We all have a part to play that includes proper training as well as leading by example. We need to watch out for each other and encourage each other to work safely.

Quiz

1. Keeping young workers safe is only the responsibility of management
True or False

2. Some high risk task associated with young workers are:
 - A. Running equipment or machinery
 - B. Working on elevated levels
 - C. Working with hot substances or objects
 - D. All of the above

3. Young workers might be intimidated or embarrassed to ask questions
True or False

4. It is important that young worker know the location of emergency equipment
true or False

5. It is important to discuss the hazards associated with each task and the appropriate safety measures to be taken.
True or False