Safety Matters

A Safety & Health Training for Young Workers
Young Worker Injuries
Teen Worker Injury Statistics

- Approximately 1.6 million teens (aged 15–17) in the United States work. About 50% of 10th graders and 75% of 12th graders have jobs.

- A teenager in the U.S. is injured on the job every 9 minutes.

- On average, each year
  - 59,800 workers younger than 18 are sent to the ER for job-related injuries, but actual injury statistics are probably much higher.
  - 37 workers younger than 18 die on the job.
  - Young workers are twice as likely to be injured than adult workers.

CDC 2010  
www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/youth/chartpackage.html  www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5915a2.htm
Mallory’s Story

- What are some factors that contributed to this incident?
- What could have kept Mallory from being hurt?
- How might this affect Mallory’s future life choices?
Finding Hazards
Workplace Hazards

All workplaces have hazards that can be identified and corrected.

What is a Job Hazard?

A job hazard is anything at work that can hurt you either physically or mentally.

4 categories:
- Safety
- Chemical
- Biological
- Other health hazards
Job Hazards

- **Safety hazards** can cause immediate injuries
  - Knives, hot grease

- **Chemical hazards** are gases, vapors, liquids, or dusts that can harm your body
  - Cleaning products, pesticides

- **Biological hazards** are living things that can cause sickness or disease, such as:
  - HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, tuberculosis
  - Bacteria, viruses
Other health hazards are other harmful things that can injure you or make you sick. Some are not obvious because they may not cause health problems right away.

- Noise, radiation, repetitive movements, heat, cold, stress, violence

Can you think of other job hazards?
Controlling Job Hazards

Remove the Hazard
(for example, use safer chemicals, use a machine guard)

Improve Work Policies & Procedures
(for example, conduct training, assign enough people to do the job)

Wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
(for example, wear gloves, use a respirator)
Controlling Job Hazards

- Remove the Hazard = the best way
  - Example: Buy precut vegetables so that employees don’t have to use knives.

- Good safety policies
  - Examples: Train workers, give regular breaks, assign enough people to do the job safely

- Personal protective equipment (PPE) = the least effective (but use when provided!)
  - Examples: Gloves, steel-toed shoes, hard hats, respirators, safety glasses, hearing protectors, lab coats or smocks
Removing or Reducing Hazards

Jasmin’s Story

**Job:** Hospital dishwasher

**Hazard:** Chemical dishwashing solution

**Injury:** Chemical burn to the eye

*What solutions can you think of that might prevent this injury from happening again?*
Know Your Rights and Responsibilities
Who Protects Teen Workers?

- Employers
- Teens
- Government agencies
  - The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
  - Federal and State Departments of Labor
  - U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)
Are You a Teen Worker?

- What is the minimum wage in our state?
- If you are under 18 years old do you need a work permit before you start a new job?
- During the school year, how late can 14- and 15-year-olds work at night?
- During the school year, how late can 16- and 17-year-olds work at night?
Being Prepared, Taking Action
What is an emergency at work?

An unplanned event that harms or threatens employees, customers, or the public; that shuts down business operations; or that causes physical or environmental damage.
# Emergencies at Work - Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Man Made</th>
<th>Natural</th>
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<td>Hurricanes</td>
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<td>Violence</td>
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Speaking Up

- Never feel bad about seeking help or asking questions. Trust your instincts!
- Don’t be silent when confronted with a problem at work. It could get worse, and you or a co-worker could get hurt!
- It is illegal for an employer to fire someone for reporting work hazards or other safety problems at work!
What Do OSH Professionals Do?

Occupational safety and health (OSH) professionals:
- Help prevent harm to workers, the environment, and the general public.
- Design safe workspaces, study or treat work-related diseases, inspect machines, or test air quality.
Safety Matters: Summing Up (1)

- Everyone is at risk for being hurt on the job, and all jobs have hazards.
- Young workers are more likely than any other age group to get hurt or killed at work.
- Workplace injuries are NOT accidents. They can be predicted and prevented.
You need to know about the types of hazards so you can recognize potential health and safety problems.

The best way to prevent a workplace injury or illness is to remove the hazard.

If this can’t be done, then control the hazard through work policies, procedures or the use of PPE.
OSHA enforces health and safety laws.

Employers are responsible for providing a safe and healthy workplace, safety training and safety equipment.

Young people should know their rights in the workplace but they also need to know their responsibilities, like reporting hazards and following all safety rules.
Safety Matters: Summing Up (4)

- Remember to trust your instincts and don’t be afraid to speak up if you have a problem at work!
- A work injury (or illness) can change your life forever!
- Learn about the risks and hazards at work and take action to protect yourselves and others.
Stay Safe & Healthy at Work!

The skills you’ve learned in the NIOSH/AIHA Safety Matters training will help keep you safe and healthy on the job, now and throughout your work lives.

Thank you!