

Be SAFE at Work: Tips for Teens

A guide for teens, employers and parents.

STATISTICS

- Every year in the U.S., nearly 70 teenagers under age 18 die from work-related injuries
- Another 77,000 teen workers are hurt badly enough to end up in hospital emergency rooms
- Overall, more than 5,000 people die each year from on-the-job injuries and 4.4 million more suffer from injuries and illnesses in the U.S. alone



DID YOU KNOW?

- Newly-hired teens miss work most often as a result of on-the-job muscle sprains, strains or tears
- Fatigue from trying to balance work and school may contribute to injuries among young workers
- Nearly 70% of 14 to 16 year-olds injured on the job miss work, school and other activities for at least a day
- A quarter of those injured teens are sidelined for more than a week
- About one-third of fatal injuries to young workers occur in family businesses

COMMON WORKPLACE HAZARDS



Elevated work areas
Chemicals
Motor vehicles
Heavy and/or bulky objects
Sharp equipment
Wet, slippery or cluttered walking & working areas
Machinery and electrical equipment
Hot or cold working areas
Loud noises

American Society of Safety Engineers



LEARN HOW TO BE SAFE

- Ask your employer safety-related questions
- Follow the safety guidelines at work
- Know your rights and responsibilities
- Always check with your employer's occupational safety and health professional

EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide a safe workplace
- Know laws about working limits for teens
- Emphasize importance of safety
- Teach workers to recognize hazards and use safety practices



LAWS YOU SHOULD KNOW

U.S. Department of Labor has established two major laws protecting the safety and health of workers, including teens



The Fair Labor Standards Act : Restricts the types of jobs teens under age 18 can hold and the hours they can work

The 1970 Occupational Safety and Health Act: Requires employers to provide safe and healthful work

environments for teens and all workers

Important information and websites:

U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Youth & Labor Laws:
<http://youthrules.dol.gov>

U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Teen Worker Topic Page:
www.osha.gov/SLTC/teenworkers/index.html

Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA):
www.dol.gov/elaws

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Kids Career Page:
www.bls.gov/k12/html/edu_over.htm

U.S. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Young Worker Safety and Health Topic Page:
www.cdc.gov/niosh/adoldoc.html

DOL's Wage and Hour Division:
www.dol.gov/esa/whd

Employment and Training Administration (ETA):
www.doleta.gov

2/08/PR/JC

Founded in 1911, ASSE is the oldest and largest safety organization and is committed to protecting people, property and the environment. Visit www.asse.org for more information.

