NIOSH Youth@Work: Talking Safety

Did you know that every minute, a young person under the age of 25 in the United States is injured on the job?

By the time they finish high school, 80% of U.S. teens have held a job. But the vast majority of them enter the workforce unprepared for the challenges—and hazards—they face.

To address this critical problem, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), together with its partners and stakeholders, developed the Youth@Work: Talking Safety curriculum to equip young people with the vital work readiness competencies they need to stay safe and healthy on the job now—and throughout their lives.

The free, online curriculum can be used in a classroom or other group training setting. It is customized for all 50 United States, U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia to raise awareness about local, as well as federal, child labor rules, regulations, and resources.

The curriculum consists of six, 45-minute lessons that can be customized and adapted to teach young people about job-related injuries, finding hazards, making the job safer, emergencies at work, knowing rights and responsibilities at work and speaking up/taking action when experiencing a work-related problem. The curriculum contains fact sheets, interactive classroom activities, handouts, and games designed to raise awareness about young worker safety and health. There is also a teacher Microsoft PowerPoint presentation and companion video.

To learn more about the Talking Safety curriculum and the vital workplace safety and health competencies it teaches, visit http://www.cdc.gov/NIOSH/talkingsafety/.

NIOSH Release: Mobile Friendly eDoc

NIOSH is excited to announce a new digital publication product called the NIOSH eDoc. This product will present workplace safety and health information in a way that is accessible and easy to use on any mobile device, desktop, or laptop computer. We heard from our wholesale and retail trade sector members that a mobile friendly format is needed. We hope that this new product meets that need.

The first document to be available in the new NIOSH eDoc format is Ergonomic Solutions for Retailers: Prevention of Material Handling Injuries in the Grocery Sector (NIOSH Publication No. 2015-100 - http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2015-100/start.html?s_cid=3ni7d2wrt08042015). This booklet for retailers and safety experts illustrates the use of mechanical assist devices for safer materials handling in grocery work. We hope you enjoy this new product and look forward to hearing your feedback! You may contact Vern Anderson at Vanderson@cdc.gov (513-533-8319) or Debbie Hornback at DHornback@cdc.gov (513-533-8456).
Emerging Issues
Warehouse Safety Partnership

The February 2015 Department of Labor News Brief noted the quarterly warehouse safety partnership meeting in Schnecksville, Pennsylvania (PA). Warehouse industry temporary worker protections were discussed. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and warehouse industry representatives signed an agreement in 2003 as part of the Warehousing and Materials Logistics Partnership. OSHA and Manpower Group (temporary work agency) discussed safety standards, temporary worker rights and safety. They are working cooperatively to find solutions to issues, and prevent workplace tragedies. Proper training is one of the key points discussed. This News Brief may be retrieved at http://www.dol.gov/_sec/newsletter/2015/20150226.htm#.VbZzGHYpB2E.

The commitment in the partnership is to

(1) develop an initiative to improve safety and health performance by reducing the Total Case Incident Rate (TCIR) and Days Away Restricted and Transferred (DART) rate of partnership members,
(2) identify within the participating members’ worksites the hazards contributing to injuries and illnesses and develop a strategy to control or eliminate those hazards,
(3) aid in the development of a workplace Motor Vehicle safety program, and
(4) promote the PA/OSHA Consultation Program as a resource to assist partnership members in workplace hazard recognition.

The focused hazards are identified as: contact with objects; overexertion; and falls. These are further clarified as:

-- contact with objects will include hazards associated with unsafe operation of powered industrial trucks;
-- “overexertion” will include the hazards associated with ergonomic issues, including unsafe lifting activities; and
-- falls can include same level falls and fall hazards to a lower level.

You can see the full partnership agreement at https://www.osha.gov/dcsp/partnerships/regional/region3/733_warehousing.htm.