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It Pays for Young Workers to Learn about Workplace Safety



Students starting summer or part-time jobs and young workers in their first full-time jobs have a lot on their minds. They're deciding what to wear, they're meeting new co-workers, they're thinking about how to spend their wages, and they're trying hard to make a good first impression.

Unfortunately, learning about the hazards of a new job may not seem like a priority. But it should be. Young workers are at much greater risk of being killed or injured at work than those who are 25 or older. And they're more likely to be injured on the first month of a job than at any other time.

Why? They lack experience. They lack training. They lack the confidence to speak up when they are asked to do something that doesn't feel safe.

Each day in Ontario approximately 42 young workers between 15 and 24 years of age sustain workplace injuries severe enough to keep them off work. And each year, traumatic workplace injuries kill about 10 young workers.

What makes these statistics all the more appalling is that each and every injury and death was 100 per cent preventable. They simply shouldn't have happened. Parents, brothers and sisters should not be grieving right now.

Through its 2007 Young Worker Safety Campaign, the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) encourages young workers to "Learn about workplace safety and win!". By visiting **prevent-it.ca**, young people can learn about their rights and responsibilities in the workplace and have the chance to win cell phones, Xbox 360s, MP3 players and scholarships.*

As everyone plays a part in workplace safety, the message isn't only for young workers. The WSIB's new guide for parents (which can be downloaded from **prevent-it.ca**) contains tips on how to talk to teens about workplace safety and information about what to do if they think their teen's workplace is unsafe. In addition, website resources contain a wealth of health and safety information for employers and educators.

Today's summer students are tomorrow's decision makers. Let's do all we can to teach them how to stay safe today, and in the future. Pass the message on to the young people in your lives - visit **prevent-it.ca** or call 1-866-SAFE-JOB for more information.

* Contest runs until July 22



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