

Young/New Workers

Young workers are at higher risk of injury than workers of any other age group. More than half of serious injuries involving workers aged 15 to 24 occur during the first six months on the job. Some of the contributing factors in these injuries include

- Inexperience and insufficient training
- The number of work hazards these workers are exposed to
- A real or perceived work overload
- A lack of confidence or understanding of their rights as workers
- Being hesitant to ask questions

It's not just young workers who are getting hurt, though. Starting a new job can be risky for workers of any age. New workers may not be aware of the hazards in their new job, and they may feel pressured to work quickly to keep up with more experienced workers.

So when it comes to injury prevention, supervisors and health and safety representatives should pay special attention to the needs of young/new workers by

- Making sure they receive safety training focused on the real hazards they face. In a school setting, most injuries incurred by young/new workers involve lifting objects and slipping, tripping, or falling. (See the Slips, Trips, and Falls poster for more on these issues.) If your school operates a cafeteria serving food, then working with knives, food slicers, and hot substances/objects can also be concerns.
- Verifying that young/new workers understand and use their training.
- Encouraging young/new workers to ask questions if they have safety concerns or don't understand something.

See the resources listed here for more on injury prevention for young/new workers.



In the OHS Regulation

- Sections 3.22–3.25, Young and New Workers

Resources

Available from
www2.worksafebc.com/Topics/YoungWorker/Home.asp

- Top Seven Dangers for Young Workers
- Young Worker – FAQs
- Resources for Young Worker – by group

Available from
WorkSafeBC.com/Publications

- *3 Steps to Effective Worker Education and Training* (BK42; “Why focus on young and new workers?” section)

Safety is everyone's responsibility!

WorkSafeBC Prevention Information Line: 604 276-3100 • Toll-free: 1 888 621-SAFE (7233)

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