Health and Safety

Young Worker Safety Facts

* Health and safety at your coop placement is our highest priority.
* New and young workers are much more likely to be injured on the job.
* Young workers often cannot recognize health and safety hazards.
* Young workers frequently hesitate to ask questions about health and safety.
* New and young workers may lack expe­rience and may be required to perform tasks they are not familiar with.
* They are usually unaware of their rights, and may be afraid to raise concerns about health and safety issues for fear that they might lose their job.
* They are often given the more tedious and even dangerous jobs that no one else wants.
* Young workers tend to have a sense of invincibility (“I can do anything”)
* Keeping young workers safe helps to keep all workers safe.

Safety Training

Health and safety training has become an important part of your education in many subject areas. In Ontario classrooms, courses in careers, science, technological education, arts, physical education and social sciences have some form of safety training or certification.

Why is there so much emphasis on safety? The answer is simple. To reduce the average injury rate in Ontario. Although the injury rate is down, one Ontario worker on average dies every day from a workplace injury or illness. Having well trained and protected workplace is necessary to reducing injuries.

Workplace injuries are not just painful they are expensive. The 2010 average compensation cost claimed by an injured or ill worker was estimated at more than $19,000. Injuries and illnesses do not only occur at job sites that work with tools, machines and equipment. Nearly half of all young worker injuries and illnesses occur in the service sector. Whether working in a retail store, restaurant kitchen or an office, always be aware of the risks.

By completing the pre-placement assignments in Activity # 5, you will be confident with your rights and responsibilities as a young worker and the hazards in a typical workplace. You will be well prepared for your site specific safety training during your workplace orientation.

Reporting an Accident

In case of an accident or injury at your coop placement, you should immediately do the following:

1. **Get first aid treatment** right away at your placement. Seek medical attention if necessary with a doctor, hospital, dentist, or other treating service.
2. **Report all accidents and injuries**, however minor, to your placement supervisor and phone your coop teacher. If the accident requires medical treatment at the placement only, the teacher and supervisor still need to keep a record of the details.