

### How can you help your children stay safe at work?

- Never assume your son or daughter is safe on the job.
- Take an active interest in your children's employment.
- Talk to your son or daughter about workplace health and safety. It will help to reinforce what they're learning in the Student WorkSafe program at school.
- Ask your children about the kind of work they do and the training and supervision they are receiving on the job.
- Talk about dangers in the workplace and the precautions they should be taking to avoid injury.
- Encourage your children to ask questions and seek help when they are uncertain about safe work practices.
- Remind your children of their right to a safe and healthy workplace and their right to refuse to perform work they believe is hazardous to their health or safety.

### What is the Workers' Compensation Board's role in young worker safety?

The Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board (WCHSB) is responsible for promoting health and safety in the workplace and for compensating injured workers. For the past several years, the WCHSB has provided young worker safety education in Yukon high schools. In 2001, the WCHSB adopted British Columbia's Student WorkSafe program. For now it is being offered in grades 9 to 12. It may someday be offered in the lower grades as well.

### For more information

If you have any questions or concerns about young worker safety in the Yukon, please contact the Occupational Health and Safety office of the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board.

Mail or visit: 401 Strickland Street, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 5N8

Phone: 867-667-5450 (toll-free outside of Whitehorse: 1-800-661-0443)

Fax: 867-393-6279

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## Message to parents



YUKON WORKERS'  
COMPENSATION  
HEALTH AND  
SAFETY BOARD

# Who's keeping them safe now?



**WorkSafe**

You spent years keeping your children safe. You childproofed your home, you taught them to look both ways before crossing the street, you insisted they wear a bicycle helmet, you enrolled them in driver education classes.

But when they went off to their first job, did you talk to them about the risk of being injured at work? Did you even think about the risk? Did you ask about their employers' training programs and safety practices?

If you answered "no" to these questions, you're not alone. A recent Angus Reid survey revealed, "Parents almost universally assumed that employers were providing some sort of safety training; few had asked their children if this was indeed the case."

The Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board thinks it's time we all started thinking about young worker safety. That's why we're offering the **Student WorkSafe™** program in Yukon high schools and sending you this brochure.

### Young workers are at risk

Young workers aged 15 to 24, and particularly males this age, are at much higher risk of workplace injury than other workers.

More than half of work-related accidents occur during a young worker's first six months on the job; many happen within the first month of employment.

Young worker injuries range from minor to serious. They can produce short-term effects or long-term disabilities. In rare cases, they may even result in death.

### Why are young workers at higher risk of workplace injury?

- Young people are usually inexperienced workers who don't even recognize many common workplace hazards.
- Young workers are often unfamiliar with many of the tasks they have to perform in their jobs, and they may not receive adequate training from their employers.
- Some of the tasks young workers are asked to perform might be beyond their physical capabilities.
- Young workers may be asked to operate equipment designed for adults.
- Young workers may be overly eager to impress an employer and may not want to appear incompetent or incapable of performing a task.
- Young workers may be reluctant to question their employers about the safety of work practices for fear of embarrassment or reprisals.
- Many young workers are also full-time students. By the time they get to work, they're tired from a long day or week at their studies. Fatigue can contribute to higher rates of workplace injury.
- Some young people have a false sense of invincibility that may lead them to overestimate their capabilities or underestimate risks. Young men, in particular, may be willing to take chances and ignore any possible harmful consequences.
- Young workers are often unaware of their safety rights and responsibilities in the workplace.



### How are young people injured on the job?

Young worker injuries range from strains, cuts and bruises to broken bones, dislocations, concussions, burns and amputations. Your son or daughter doesn't have to be working in construction, forestry or manufacturing to be exposed to workplace risks: the majority of young people employed in the Yukon work in the hospitality and retail service industries, and that's where most workplace injuries occur.

Overexertion, being struck by an object, falling or slipping, and contact with hot objects are the most common causes of workplace injury in all Yukon workplaces.