

SAFE WORKPLACES FOR YOUNG & NEW WORKERS

Anyone can get injured at work, but young and new workers face a higher risk. Inadequate training, orientation and supervision as well as inexperience and lack of awareness of workplace rights and responsibilities can all contribute to new and young workers being injured on the job.

A *young worker* is anyone under age 25. A *new worker* can be any age, including young workers, and refers to someone new to the workplace and/or unfamiliar new workplace hazards.

Young and new workers are particularly vulnerable to workplace injury, especially young men. It is important to ensure they understand the risks, are properly trained to handle their workplace tasks and know their rights to refuse unsafe work. Everyone deserves a safe workplace.

HELP YOUNG AND NEW WORKERS STAY SAFE BY UNDERSTANDING:

- RISKS
- HAZARDS
- THEIR RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES



BC Forest Safety

Safety is good business

SAFE WORKPLACES FOR YOUNG & NEW WORKERS



RISKS

Young and new workers may face a higher risk of injury due to:

- Inexperience and lack of skills
- Limited training, orientation and supervision
- A lack of understanding of their workplace, tasks or hazards
- Uncertainty about job tasks and workplace expectations
- Exposure to higher-risk tasks or jobs
- Hesitancy to ask questions or raise concerns

HAZARDS

Hazards for New and Young Workers

- Lifting and carrying objects can lead to sprains, strains and other MSIs
- Working at heights and elevations can result in slips, trips, falls and fractures
- Using mobile equipment or vehicles can result in struck-by incidents, collisions, crush injuries, fractures and other serious injuries.
- Working near running equipment or machinery can result in cuts, lacerations, crush injuries, amputations and fractures.

Types of Jobs

- Sawmill and production/processing workers, and machine operators
- Material handlers, forklift operators and shipping and receiving workers.
- Maintenance workers and contractors who work on ladders, platforms and other elevated areas
- Workers operating or working near mobile equipment such as forklifts, loaders and industrial vehicles.
- Workers operating with saws, conveyors, planers, chippers, kilns and other processing equipment
- Workers handling lumber and wood products

RIGHTS

All workers have the right to:

- Know about hazards in the workplace and how to work safely
- Participate in workplace health and safety activities
- Refuse unsafe work

RESPONSIBILITIES

To help keep yourself and others safe:

- Be aware of hazards and report concerns to your supervisor right away
- Follow safe work procedures.
- Never work if you are impaired - this includes from alcohol, drugs but also fatigue
- Use the required PPE, safety devices and equipment. Use them properly and take care of them
- If you get injured, no matter how minor, seek treatment immediately and report the incident to your supervisor

REMEMBER

Understanding workplace hazards, rights and responsibilities can help prevent injuries and save lives, especially for young and new workers.

WorkSafeBC Resources: Scan the QR codes to access



Tools for
Training
Young and
New Workers



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