

# NIOSH ALERT



## Preventing Deaths and Injuries of Adolescent Workers

### WARNING!

**Each year, approximately 70 adolescents die from injuries at work. Hundreds more are hospitalized, and tens of thousands require treatment in hospital emergency rooms.**

**The following types of work are especially hazardous to adolescents:**

- Working in or around motor vehicles
- Operating tractors and other heavy equipment
- Working near electrical hazards such as overhead power lines while using poles, ladders, pipes, or cranes
- Working in retail and service businesses where there is a risk of robbery-related homicide
- Working on ladders, scaffolds, roofs, or construction sites
- Working around cooking appliances
- Continuous manual lifting and lifting of heavy objects

### EMPLOYERS

- Comply with child labor laws and occupational safety and health regulations that apply to your business.
- Assess and eliminate hazards for adolescent workers.
- Train adolescent workers to recognize hazards and use safe work practices. Routinely verify that they are using these skills.
- Evaluate equipment used by adolescents to be sure that it is legal and safe for their use.
- Make sure that adolescent workers are appropriately supervised to prevent injuries and hazardous exposures.
- Ask supervisors and experienced workers to help develop an injury and illness prevention program

and to help identify and solve safety and health problems.

### PARENTS

- Take an active role in the employment decisions of your children.
- Discuss the types of work involved and the training and supervision provided by the employer.

### EDUCATORS

- Know the Federal and State child labor laws if you are responsible for signing work permits.
- Talk to students about safety and health hazards in the workplace and their responsibilities as workers.
- Make sure that school-based work experience programs provide jobs in safe and healthful environments and supply information about workers' legal rights and responsibilities.

### ADOLESCENTS

- Be aware that you have the right to work in a safe and healthful environment.
- Learn to recognize hazards at work.
- Participate in training programs at work or request training if none is offered.
- Seek information about safe work practices from your employer and the State department of labor.
- Use safe work practices.
- Know that you have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Labor when you feel your rights are being violated or your safety is in jeopardy.



Call 1-800-35-NIOSH (1-800-356-4674) for additional information or for free single copies of the complete ***NIOSH ALERT: Preventing Deaths and Injuries of Adolescent Workers*** [DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 95-125].

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
Public Health Service  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health



**NIOSH**

**Delivering on the Nation's promise:**

Safety and health at work  
For all people  
Through research and prevention

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