

OSHA[®] BACKGROUNDER

Occupational Safety and Health Administration U.S. Department of Labor www.osha.gov 1-800-321-OSHA

Teen Summer Job Safety Campaign

Since its inception in 1971, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has helped cut workplace injuries, illnesses and fatalities while U.S. employment has increased from 58 million private employees at 3.5 million worksites to nearly 115 million private employees at over 8 million worksites. Fatality and injury and illness rates have declined to record lows. The injury and illness rate was 4.4 per 100 employees for calendar year 2006 and the work-related fatality rate was 4.0 fatalities per 100,000 employees. Workplaces are safer than they have ever been.

In support of its mission to protect the health and safety of all working Americans, OSHA developed a strategic initiative in 2005 focused on young employees. The Teen Summer Job Safety (TSJS) campaign was developed to raise public awareness of occupational risks and to reduce injuries, illnesses and fatalities among young employees. Summer employment is often a teen's first job experience. Most teens are novices in the workplace, have limited training and are seasonal or temporary employees. Many are hesitant to ask questions and may fail to recognize workplace dangers.

The TSJS campaign offers information and resources to address teen safety and health. It seeks to inform teens, parents, teachers and employers about prohibited tasks, rights, responsibilities and how to recognize and reduce risk of injury and illness in the workplace. Tools are included as part of the campaign to help teens and their parents make decisions about what jobs to seek.

Increasing awareness among parents, teachers, employers, and teens about the importance of developing strong safety and health patterns will ultimately help ensure a well-prepared workforce with the goal of reducing injury, illness and fatality rates among young employees. Through partnerships, outreach and marketing, OSHA expects to reach more than six million working teens.

2008 Campaign Focus

On April 21, 2008, OSHA will launch the fourth year of its youth public awareness campaign at Rockefeller Plaza in New York City, where the agency and teens from

SkillsUSA will demonstrate safe work practices for some of the most common tasks that teens are likely to encounter in summer jobs. SkillsUSA, an OSHA national Alliance Program participant, is a nonprofit organization serving teachers and high school and college students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations.



OSHA will either host or participate in local events and activities around the country to help educate teenagers how to stay safe and healthy on the job. Activities include career fairs, youth programs, expos, career days, and training seminars. OSHA and its regional partners are striving to reduce work-related injuries among teenagers by teaching them on-the-job safety and integration of principles into their work tasks from this early age. Through working with many strong national and regional Alliance Program participants and other cooperative programs, OSHA plans to reach more than three million teens who work during the summer.

The campaign is part of OSHA's Young Worker Initiative, a program which provides information and resources to teenagers, parents, educators, and employers to ensure safe and rewarding work experiences for these summer employees. Parents, teachers, teens, and employers can learn more about workplace safety at www.osha.gov/teens.

About OSHA

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthy workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to promote the safety and health of America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards; providing training, outreach and education; establishing partnerships; and encouraging continual process improvement in workplace safety and health. For more information, visit www.osha.gov.