

The Facts

- Injuries to workers under the age of 18 occur at a rate double that for adults.
- Teens get injured when they do jobs they are not properly trained for, or when they are not supervised properly.
- While the majority of injuries in North Dakota are slips, falls, cuts and burns, some teens each year will end up injured and go on disability.
- Disability can change the course of a teenager's life, even close the door on their dreams for the future.
- In the most recent three fiscal years, 2007-2009 WSI recorded 1,191 workers under the age of 18 who were hurt on the job; 71 of those young workers hurt seriously enough to require wage-loss benefits.
- No fatalities were recorded for 18 and under.
- Top three causes of injury were strains or injury by lifting, slip/fall and cut/puncture/scrape.

BE SAFE THIS SUMMER

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Employers

- Provide safety training right away to all new employees, especially teens! They don't know the risks unless you tell them.
- Provide extra supervision to teen workers when they are new to the job. Teen workers need lots of repetition.
- Encourage teens to ask questions, sometimes they need a little more prodding than adults to speak up.
- Create a buddy or mentoring system with experienced workers in your workplace who can teach teens how to work safely.
- Give positive feedback for work done safely.
- Treat every young worker with the same care you would your own child.

Teens

- Ask questions! Don't worry about looking dumb. Asking questions can help you stay safe.
- Trust your instincts. If someone asks you to do something that feels unsafe or makes you uncomfortable, check with your supervisor or safety

officer before doing it. Your first responsibility is keeping yourself safe.

- Stay sober. In order to work, you must remain drug free. Workers using alcohol or other drugs are more likely to get hurt or hurt others. If you suspect someone is using, tell your supervisor.
- Follow your employer's safety and health rules and wear or use all required safety gear and equipment. Working safely may slow you down, but ignoring safe work procedures is a fast track to getting hurt.

