

Dangers At Work

A 15-year old teen lost his right arm while working in a meat processing plant. The accident happened when a slip on the greasy floor forced his arm into a meat grinder, causing him to lose his entire hand. His hope of someday working as an auto mechanic or firefighter seems impossible now. What could he or his employer have done to prevent this accident?



About 52% of young persons (ages 16 to 19 years) work in jobs during summer months. In 2016, 60 young workers were fatality injured (died) on the job; and 22,430 were injured. The National Consumer League lists the 5 most dangerous jobs for young adults: agriculture (harvesting crops and using machinery); construction and height work; traveling youth sales crews; outside helper (landscaping, grounds keeping, lawn service); driver/operator (forklift/tractors).

According to Center for Young Worker Safety, a **JOB HAZARD** is defined as anything at work that can hurt you physically or mentally. The **EFFECT** of a job hazard may be: a) **temporary** (example: broken arm or cut); or b) **permanent** (loss of finger or loss of hearing); or c) **immediate** (brick falling on your toes); or d) **delayed** (wrist injury after long-term overuse of the hands on the job).

Job hazard **CATEGORIES** include: a) **Physical** (dangerous tools such as knives and saws; machinery; equipment; vehicles). b) **Chemical** (dangerous liquids, gases, vapors, dust). c) **Biological** (dangerous germs, viruses, insects that cause sickness). e) **"Pressure Cooker"** (job stress from work environment, deadlines, not enough job training and supervision, or no safety training rules to follow).



QUESTIONS ABOUT JOB SAFETY

QUESTION: What happens if I don't feel safe doing a task on the job?

Let the person in charge know when you have questions about how to do a job task, or handle chemicals, especially if it looks tricky or dangerous. Ask how to do it in a safe way. Then, learn to do it the right way. Always do it the same way — safely following the rules. Don't take any shortcuts! You should know that you have the right to work in a safe and healthful place. Injuries are not "cool" so stay alert to prevent them.

QUESTION: What happens if I get injured on the job?

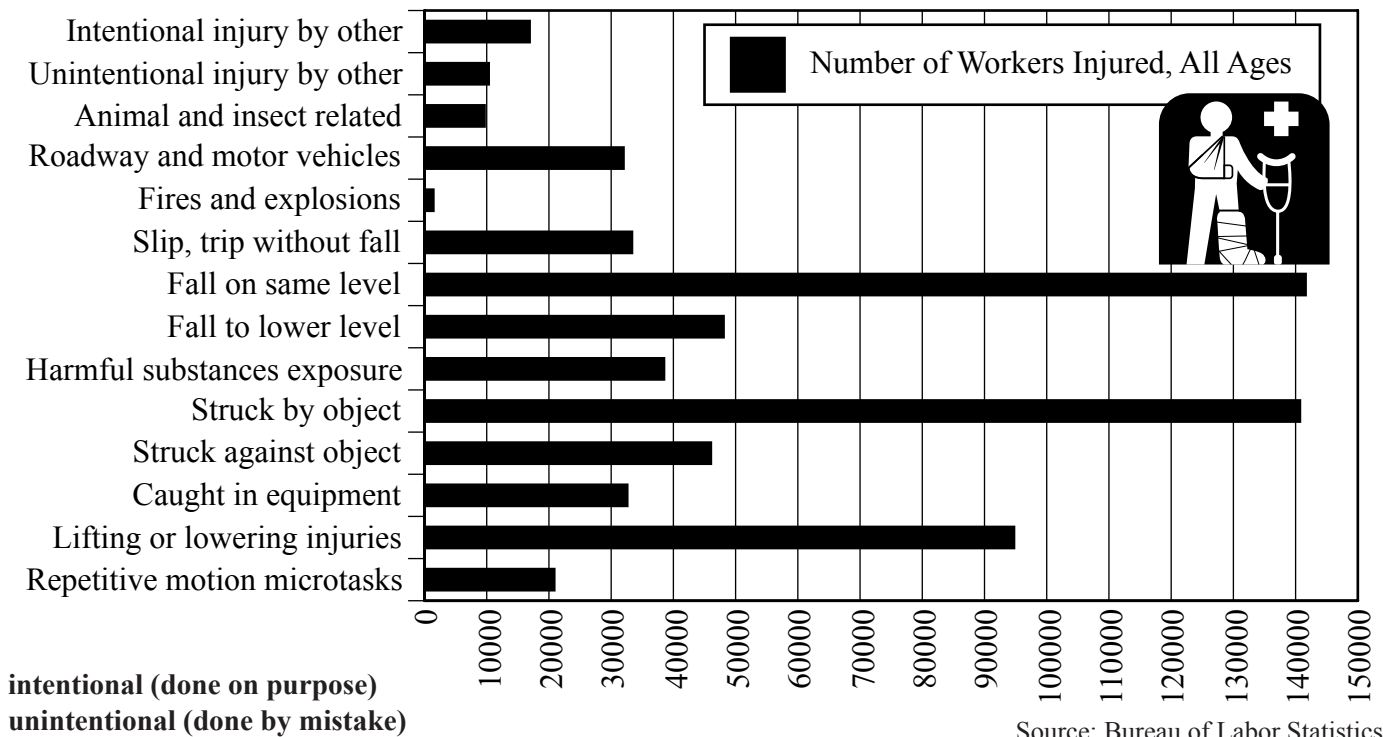
Be sure to report all injuries, and seek treatment for all injuries from the first aid station, nurse, doctor or hospital. Don't ignore injuries. Tell the supervisor and the medical person that treats you that the injury happened on the job.

QUESTION: What do I "ask" to learn a new task on the job?

- 1) **Ask** for detailed instructions on how to do the task including what safety steps to take.
- 2) Watch how the task is performed. **Ask** questions on any step that is unclear.
- 3) Do the task while being watched to see if you do it right.
- 4) If you need to wear protective equipment such as safety shoes, hard hats, or gloves, **ask** where to find the protective equipment, how to wear it, how to use it, and how to care for it.

If you think there is a job hazard (danger) at your work site that the supervisor will not correct, you may report the situation to OSHA (Occupational Safety & Health Administration). You have the right to request that your name not be given to the employer. To report the job hazard, you file a complaint and request an OSHA inspection of the workplace to review the job hazard and safety procedure the supervisor is following. Complaints by workers are taken seriously by OSHA. It is against the law for an employer to fire, demote, transfer, or discriminate in any way against a worker for filing a complaint or using OSHA rights. For information or to report a hazard, visit OSHA website: www.osha.gov. Click on "For Workers."

Types of Events that Cause Injury to Workers



QUICK CHECK:

1. What caused the 15-year old teen's accident?
2. How many young workers were: a) Fatality injured (died) on the job? b) injured on the job?
3. List the 5 most dangerous jobs for young adults.
4. Write down the definition of "job hazard."
5. a) List 4 EFFECTS of job hazards.
b) Write down one example for each effect.
6. a) List 4 CATEGORIES of job hazards.
b) Write down one example for each category.
7. List 3 things you should do if you do not feel safe doing a task or handling chemicals.
8. When you are injured on the job, what should you: a) Report? b) Seek? c) Tell the medical person who treats the injury?
9. To learn a new task, list 3 things YOU "ask."
10. If there is a job hazard that the supervisor will not correct, what may you do?
11. What do you have the right to request?
12. To report the job hazard, list 2 things to do.
13. What 4 things are against the law for employers to do to a worker for filing a complaint?
14. What is the address of the OSHA website?
15. Using the graph: List top 5 EVENTS that caused the highest number of injuries.
16. Define: a) intentional. b) unintentional.
17. a) What number injuries were animal or insect related? b) What type of "object" injury cause highest number of injuries? c) Which event had lowest number of injured workers?
18. a) Using the graph, list 3 events that may cause injuries to restaurant workers. b) If you were manager, what can you do to prevent these 3 event injuries from happening to your workers?