

**Looking Back and Moving Forward: 20 years of Worker Education and Training  
NIEHS National Trainers' Exchange – March 2007**

**WORKSHOP SESSION SUMMARY  
NIEHS NATIONAL TRAINERS' EXCHANGE  
MARCH 2007**

**1. Session Title and Presenter's Contact Information:**

"Community Outreach for Youth Health and Safety"

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**2. Workshop Summary**

The objective of this workshop was to increase participants' knowledge about the special risks faced by young workers, and to introduce participants to fun and innovative ways to teach youth about workplace health and safety and their rights on the job, and to get youth, employers, parents and others involved in advocating for workplace health and safety for young workers. Teaching methods can also be used with adult learners.

Using a video clip of an interview with an injured teen, a brief power point presentation, and discussion of participants' own experiences as young workers, participants received an overview of where teens are working, what types of injuries they sustain, why young workers are particularly vulnerable, and what prevention strategies can and have been used to address this issue. One interactive teaching activity, a board game that introduces youth to dealing with emergencies in the workplace, was demonstrated. Finally, participants divided into small groups to brainstorm specific actions they might take in their own work or communities to help promote young worker safety.

**3. Methods**

The workshop involved brainstorming, small and large group discussion, action planning in small groups, and demonstration of a game that can be used to

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introduce young people to dealing with emergencies in the workplace. All of these methods are designed to build on participants' own experiences, and to identify concrete steps they could take to apply these strategies to their own work. In addition to a brief written evaluation, facilitators can assess the effectiveness of these methods by evaluating the quality of the responses during discussion and small group report backs

### 4. Main Points

#### Overview of teen worker safety

- Many youth are injured on the job:
  - 250,000 <18-year-olds injured/year in the US
  - 84,000 <18-year-olds to the ER for work injuries
  - 70 <17 + 90 18-19 year-olds die each year
- Young workers are injured at a higher rate than adult workers.
- Youth are injured at work because 1) they work in jobs that do in fact have hazards; 2) they lack life and work experience; 3) they are still developing mentally and physically; 4) they lack adequate training and supervision on the job.
- Young Workers should be able to:
  - Identify hazards in any workplace
  - Know how hazards can be controlled
  - Know what to do in an emergency
  - Know their rights and responsibilities
  - Speak up effectively when a problem arises.
- Many people can play a role in protecting young workers:
  - Staff from schools, workforce development agencies, transition programs for youth with disabilities, state government, community organizations, apprenticeship programs, etc.
  - Parents
  - Employers
  - Youth themselves
- Strategies for protecting/educating youth
  - Info/workshops for employers
  - Info/workshops for parents
  - Public awareness campaigns, like Safe Jobs for Youth Month in May (CA, NY, others have poster contests, media efforts, resource kits)
  - Involving youth: peer education programs (LOSH, LOHP, MassCOSH, others), Young Worker Leadership Academies (LOSH/LOHP)
  - Integrating training into various youth-serving programs

#### Disaster Blaster Game

- There are many different types of emergencies that can occur in a workplace.

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- The best way to minimize the effects of an emergency is to know ahead of time what to do if that kind of emergency occurs, and then to follow the proper procedures.
- Employers are required to have an emergency action plan and to train employees on its contents.

### Responses from the participants: Strategies for Promoting Young Worker Safety in My Work/Community

- Integrate interactive health and safety training activities into pre-training or life skills component of our training
- Investigate local school programs (voc ed, other work-based learning programs) and promote integration of interactive health and safety training
- Find ways to mandate health and safety training for high school students
- Provide info to parents on young worker rights/protections and how they can help their teens identify and deal with problems at work

## 5. References

**NIOSH Alert: Preventing Deaths, Injuries and Illnesses of Young Workers.**  
DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2003-128. July 2003.

**Promoting Safe Work for Young Workers--A Community-Based Approach.**  
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. November 1999.

**Youth@Work: Talking Safety.** A joint publication of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the Labor Occupational Health Program at U.C. Berkeley, and Education Development Center, Inc. 2006.

## 6. Workshop Handouts/ Resources

**Teen Workers: Real Jobs, Real Risks (DVD).** Contact Darren Linker (206.616.7566, or [dlinker@u.washington.edu](mailto:dlinker@u.washington.edu)) for ordering information.

**Youth @ Work: Talking Safety** (powerpoint)

Handouts:

**Are You a Working Teen?**

Available at : <http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~safejobs/downloads/index.html>

**Emergencies at Work** (Lesson Four from Youth @ Work: Talking Safety)

Soon to be available on NIOSH website

**Various sample posters, book marks, etc.**

Available at [www.youngworkers.org](http://www.youngworkers.org), [www.losch.ucla.edu](http://www.losch.ucla.edu)