

# INTRODUCTION TO WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY

L4-A2

Did you know that:

- 1 out of every three students in your class will suffer a disabling injury at work in the course of their lifetime
- 14% of young workers say they have been injured at work
- 24% have had “near misses” - were almost injured
- 22% have had a co-worker who was injured at work
- 56% of your workers surveyed said that they did not receive work-related training before taking on new tasks at work
- 40% of young workers said that they are not aware of their legal rights and responsibilities related to health and safety.

(Taken from Live Safe! Work Smart!)

Employers and employees both have responsibilities to ensure that everyone is working in a safe environment. Statistics show that young employees are the most at risk.

Most injuries are caused by slips, trips, and falls. Slips usually occur as a result of hidden steps, slippery surfaces (such as waxed, wet, or greasy floors), and loose flooring and carpeting. Trips are caused by clutter and obstacles in hallways or on stairs, improperly placed or secured electrical cords, dropped objects not picked up, and poorly placed furniture. Falls caused by improper use of ladders, makeshift ladders (such as a stack of boxes) or stools, improper use of safety equipment, and unstable platforms. All these injuries can be foreseen and prevented.

Employers should ensure that all repairs are completed, anti-slip materials are used, spills are cleaned up, and warning signs are used for wet floors, or hidden steps. Employees should be alert and safety-conscious.

Top Five Causes of Injury to Young Workers	Five Most Common Injuries to Young Workers

## Workplace Scenarios



L4-A4

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Have you ever heard of the expression, “What you don’t know won’t hurt you”? In health and safety that is not the case. You may be starting to embark on your journey of getting work experience either through a part-time job, volunteer experience, or Cooperative Education experience. On this journey, it is critical to be aware of how to keep yourself and others healthy and safe.*

**Directions:** Work with your group members to answer the following questions for each of the two Case Studies that follow. When you are finished, hand them in for evaluation.

Case Study Questions:

- a) Describe the cause of the injury.
- b) What do you think were the rights and responsibilities of the employer in this case?
- c) What do you think were the rights and responsibilities of the employee (Sean and Mike)?
- d) How could these workplace injuries have been prevented?

### **Sean's Story**

On November 18, 1994, Sean Kells was pouring a chemical product containing toluene, a hazardous chemical, from a drum. The drum exploded and Sean received third-degree burns to 90% of his body. It was his third day on the job. Sean was rushed to the hospital, but died the next day. He was 19. The drum containing the hazardous toluene was not marked. Sean had not received any training and he did not know his health and safety rights and responsibilities.

Since Sean's death, his family has been actively trying to increase health and safety awareness for young people. They hope they can help prevent other deaths and injuries among young workers.

### **David Ellis' Story**

View the video "We Miss David" at  
<http://www.worksafely.com/videos/we-miss-david.aspx>

(Young Worker Awareness Program and Workplace Safety and Insurance Board of Ontario)

# Workplace Health & Safety

L4-A7

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Go to [www.prevent-it.ca](http://www.prevent-it.ca)
2. Click on View text version of Prevent-it.
3. Click on Watch-it
4. View the three TV ads (*Click Download Video- Open*) and complete the chart below:

TV ad	How the injury happened	How the injury could have been prevented	
		EMPLOYEE'S responsibility	EMPLOYER'S responsibility
Retail Spot			
Factory Spot			
Funeral Spot			

(You may need to watch the ads a couple of times in order to complete your chart)

5. Go to back to Watch-it and click on Check out some of our previous campaigns which have focused on different elements of workplace safety.
6. Select 2007 Youth Worker Safety Campaign: How safe is your job?
7. According to the Occupational Health & Safety Act, what are the three basic rights that all workers have? Write your answer in the space below.
8. Browse some of the print ads on this page to get ideas for your Health & Safety poster.

9. Return to the main page and under Search type : Top Workplace hazards and list the top 12 hazards.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

10. Go to Prevention- Safe Work- hazards and choose the pdf format and answer the fill in the blanks for each statement. Make sure that you read the Getting Started- Does your workplace stack? The content provided will assist you when designing your poster.

A. *Chemicals can kill:*

Health effects range from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

B. *Falls cost us all:*

Every day \_\_\_\_\_ people are injured from falls at work. On average, each injury results in \_\_\_\_\_ weeks of lost time.

C. *Lifting devices: Are your lifting devices in good lifting condition?*

Every year inadequate \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of lifting devices lead to critical and fatal \_\_\_\_\_ at work.

D. *Machines & people can be a deadly mix:*

One in \_\_\_\_\_ workplace deaths involves machines. Over \_\_\_\_\_ workers are injured using machines each year.

E. *Pedestrians & mobile equipment don't mix:*

Each year almost \_\_\_\_\_ workers are seriously injured by mobile equipment. On average, every injury results in \_\_\_\_\_ lost workdays.

11. What does WSIB stand for and what is their slogan?

# Health & Safety Poster

L4-A6

Directions: You are to create an informative and professional looking poster geared toward young workers.

Requirements for the poster:

- a catchy slogan
- a variety of fonts/ sizes and colour
- appropriate graphics to reflect message
- good use of white space (poster is balanced with text and graphics)
- message is appropriate and informative
- appeals to target audience (young workers)

Suggested topics:

1. How to prevent workplace injuries
2. Employee's rights and responsibilities
3. Types of workplace injuries
4. Hazardous symbols
5. Employer's responsibilities
6. Personal protective equipment



Suggested websites:

1. <http://worksmartontario.gov.on.ca>
2. <http://www.hsa.ie>
3. <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca>
4. <http://www2.worksafebc.com>
5. <http://www.ossa.com>
6. <http://www.labour.gov.on.ca>

