



## TOOLBOX TALK: YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

# Keeping Missouri Youth Safe on the Job

Today's workforce includes employees of all ages, including young people. Through employment, teens can start to earn their own money and they can also learn many valuable skills including responsibility, timeliness, honesty, teamwork, communication skills, and confidence. However, young workers have high rates of getting injured on the job.

## WE CAN ALL HELP KEEP YOUNG WORKERS SAFE

### PARENTS:

Take an active role in the employment decisions of your children:

- Know where your children are working, what they will be doing, and their hours.
- Ask your children about what they did at work and the training and supervision provided by the employer. Discuss any problems or concerns.
- Help your young worker report hazards to managers or, if necessary, to OSHA if a work environment seems unsafe. Hazard reports may also be filed with the Missouri Division of Labor Standards if you believe they are violating a child labor law.
- Watch for signs of concern:
  - Is a job taking too much of a physical or mental toll on your young worker?
  - Signs of concern may include increased stress levels, anxiety, fatigue and depression.
  - How is your child's performance at school?

### SCHOOL OFFICIALS:

As an educator, you can help protect young workers in several ways:

- Teach teen workers their rights and provide safety information.
- Incorporate information about workers' rights and occupational safety and health hazards into the high school and middle school curriculum.
- Integrate health and safety training into your general education and vocational programs. Students can use this knowledge throughout their careers, and it may be the only training they get before joining the workforce.
- Check all aspects of a work certificate prior to issuing it in order to ensure compliance with Missouri child labor law. Contact the Division of Labor Standards if you ever have a question or concern.

