

RISK COMMUNIQUÉ

Teen Summer Job Safety

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than 38,000 teen workers were injured on the job, and another 134 were fatally injured in the year 2004.

OSHA says, "Every year, young people join the U.S. workplace for the first time. Their enthusiasm and eagerness to succeed can put them at risk of workplace injury. We do not want to tell them to be afraid, but we do want them to be cautious. That is why we are working to help educate teens on workplace dangers and offer solid safety tips that will help them stay safe and healthy on the job."

When hiring teenagers for summer jobs it is important to set standards for their personal safety and train them accordingly. OSHA has developed a *Teen Summer Job Safety Campaign*, and if you are planning to hire teenagers this summer, be sure to visit the OSHA web site and download the sections that are appropriate for your operations. The OSHA materials provide guidance on industries that teens are frequently employed by including restaurants, landscaping, agriculture, life guarding, parks and recreation, construction, and vehicle operation. Common summer job hazards and how to avoid them are discussed including:

- Sun and heat
- Pesticide hazards
- Strains and sprains
- Hand tools
- Roadway work zone safety
- Boat safety
- Environmental hazards
- Insects and poisonous weeds
- Agricultural equipment safety
- Restaurant equipment and specific hazards

The OSHA resource kit on *Teen Summer Job Safety* includes fact sheets on workplace rights and responsibilities, hazards on the job, ways to prevent injuries, work hours, job restrictions, and more. The information is valuable for employers, educators and parents, as well as the teenagers and can be downloaded at www.osha.gov/SLTC/teenworkers/index.html.

This is a sample guideline furnished to you by Glatfelter Public Practice. Your organization should review it and make the necessary modifications to meet the needs of your organization. The intent of this guideline is to assist you in reducing risk exposure to personnel. For additional information on this topic, you may contact your GPP Risk Control Representative.