

Impact of increased industry activity on worker injuries

Industry activity leads to more hiring, and statistics show that this increase in industry activity is matched by an increase in injury counts and rates. For young workers (under 25), the injury rate doubles.



Young workers

More likely to be injured from being struck by objects like tools and equipment (pipe, hoses, etc.)



Why this trend?

Young workers are more likely to:

- » Be given tasks beyond their current capabilities
- » Be unaware of the risks involved in the tasks they are to perform
- » Be unsure of how to protect themselves or others from injury
- » Work unsupervised
- » Perform jobs where safe work procedures have not been followed or provided
- » Be unsure of how to ask questions or fear losing their job
- » Be unaware of their rights and responsibilities
- » Exhibit a sense of invincibility

What can you do?

Before starting work, ensure young workers:

- » Understand their rights and responsibilities
- » Have been given general and site-specific orientations
- » Have taken hazard assessment training and participate in hazard assessment processes (JSAs)
- » Participate in toolbox meetings and discuss young worker risks, i.e. struck by an object injuries
- » Have been alerted to risks of hazardous energy

Develop programs that address:

- » Supervisor training and support
- » Coaching (assign a buddy/mentor to new workers)
- » Worker observation and intervention
- » On-the-job training for young workers; competency
- » Stop work
- » Line of fire and no-go zones (restricted access areas)

Ask yourself: With young workers facing twice the risk, am I dedicating twice the effort and resources?