



Advancing the safety, health and prosperity of Hoosiers in the workplace.

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Teen Summer Job Safety Campaign *Restaurant and Retail Safety*

Indianapolis, IN June 16, 2008 – The Indiana Department of Labor reminds employers and teens to work safely.

Work experience can be a great benefit to teens and their employers. Regardless of where teens work – in a restaurant or grocery store, in an office or on a farm, the mission of the Indiana Department of Labor is to prevent work-related injuries and illnesses and protect teen workers by promoting positive and safe work experiences.

According to the Indiana Bureau of Child Labor's Online Work Permit System, more than 68% of Hoosier teens are employed in the restaurant and retail industry. These types of establishments expose young workers to safety and health hazards such as equipment and machinery, confined spaces (walk-in freezers and coolers) and working with the public. Additionally, young workers in these industries may be exposed to chemicals such as cleaners and respiratory irritants and toxic gases, such as carbon monoxide from gas-fired cooking units.

Restaurant Establishments

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), burn injuries are a common source of injury among teen employees in the restaurant industry. NIOSH also states that teens working in restaurants are six times more likely to sustain a work-related burn injury than teens working in any other industry. In Indiana, teen labor laws do not permit employees younger than 16 to cook except at soda fountains, lunch counters, snack bars and cafeteria serving counters. For more information on Indiana teen labor laws please visit http://www.in.gov/dol/files/teen_labor_laws_guide.pdf.

Retail Trades

According to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), teenagers working in restaurants suffer the greatest number of workplace injuries and illnesses. Teenagers 16 and 17-years of age working in retail trade suffer the second highest number of workplace injuries and illnesses. Cuts are the most common injury suffered by teenagers working in retail trade. Many of the types of machines teenage workers are prohibited from using, including paper balers, forklifts and food slicers are often used in the retail trade industry.

For additional information on prohibited jobs or occupations, please contact the U.S. Department of Labor:

- Indianapolis (Central and Southern Indiana)
Phone: (317) 226-6801
- South Bend (Northern Indiana)
Phone: (574) 236-8331

For more information or if you have questions, please contact Michelle L. Ellison at (317) 234-4792.

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