



"Working to make Indiana businesses clean and safe, and wages fair and competitive."

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Indiana Department of Labor Introduces Teen Summer Safety Campaign

Indianapolis, IN June 15, 2007 – The Indiana Department of Labor (IDOL), in conjunction with the United States Department of Labor, has announced the 2007 Teen Summer Safety Campaign. The 2007 Campaign is entitled "Building a Safe Work Foundation." The emphasis for this year's campaign targets teens employed in the construction industry. However, the campaign looks to reach all working teens by reducing the number of work-related injuries and illnesses. The Indiana Department of Labor looks to raise awareness about on the job safety by offering training, resources and publications to teens and their parents.

According to the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD), as of 2005, 102,292 teens were working in Indiana. With such a large number of these teens working in the summer months, Labor Commissioner, Lori A. Torres, explains the value of this campaign. "Summer jobs are often the first job experience for most young people. Integration of safe work practices can help ensure that these experiences are rewarding. It is our goal to instill a positive workplace safety culture from the start. Our teens are the next generation of employees—keeping them safe and educating Hoosiers on workplace safety is critical."

The "Building a Safe Work Foundation Theme" underlines the importance of recognizing that work-related injuries and illnesses to young workers can be devastating. According to the most recent Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) report, teens suffered 7,730 construction related injuries and illnesses in 2005. According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the construction industry employs less than 3% of all young workers, but ranks third in the number of work-related fatalities to youth.

In an effort to disseminate information to Indiana's working teens, parents, employers, and educators, the IDOL will provide subsequent Press Releases every second week throughout the summer highlighting appropriate teen worker safety topics.

For more information or if you have questions, please contact Deputy Commissioner—INSafe, Sean M. Keefer at (317) 232-2683.

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