Safeguard Your Youth In a New Job

Safety Talk

The new worker isn’t just the first-timer on the job, but anyone in an unfamiliar situation. This might include someone transferred in from another location, or someone promoted to a new position.

Starting a new job is a challenging. In addition to learning the mechanics of new work, you are also trying to make an impression and navigate the culture of a new workplace. You must learn the layout of the new workplace as well as master new tools.

What’s at Stake

Safety should be the first thing you become aware of, but often, workplace safety is the last thing on your mind.

Every workplace has a safety orientation program. Make sure you understand the lessons of the program. If you don’t fully absorb the program, be sure to ask questions.

To be the best team player you can be, become familiar with the company’s training procedures and objectives. Know your learning style and tailor your training experience to your learning style. Listens and observes without interrupting (especially when non critical mistakes are being made). Maintain open line of communication with your supervisor, ensure that you feel comfortable asking questions and reporting crucial information.

Finally, be a great trainee by practicing good mentor. Share your knowledge and positive outlook with colleagues.

Example

A teenage worker was hired at a commercial grain and hay feed store to haul bags to customers’ vehicles.

Minutes into his job, the youth was told to “hang loose” and wait for the manager to go to the bank.

Perhaps anxious to prove his enthusiasm for the job, he sprang into action after overhearing a customer ordering three bales of hay.

The youth jumped onto a forklift, whose keys were in its ignition, and drove to where the bales were stored. While backing the forklift, the worker ran over a gutter, causing the lift truck to tip and crush him.

How to Protect Yourself

When starting a new job, ask questions. What are the hazards associated with this work? Are the hazards of your new workplace chemical, electrical, fire related or mechanical? Are there associated fall hazards? Do lifting hazards come into play? Are head, hand or feet injuries a worry? Finally, take to mind excessive noise.

Next, ask yourself how you can protect yourself. Be proactive and thoughtful. Master work procedures that will keep you safe. Note the presence of machine guards or other safety barriers.

What PPE must you become familiar with? Your PPE may include a hard hat, eyewear, earplugs, safety footwear or gloves. Know where to obtain this equipment, and how to take care of it.

Finally, practice good housekeeping in your new work area. Put away tools and materials in the correct places, and clean up trash and clutter. Make sure there are no tripping hazards such as open drawers or electrical cords across the floor. Avoid slipping hazards by cleaning up spills promptly.

Final Word

New employees must complete the job orientation process and receive safety training before starting a job. Additionally, it is best if new employees are proactive and enthusiastic about safety

training in particular. We all know that poor safety habits can have tragic consequences.

Make a good impression by staying in one piece.