

Glossary

Absorption: To take a substance into the body, usually through the skin.

Acute injury or illness: An illness or injury that happens immediately after exposure to a hazard. Acute illnesses and injuries are usually short-term.

Administrative controls: Rules, regulations, or procedures to control or limit employees' exposures to potential hazards.

Benefits: Positive contribution to a person's life; advantages.

Cardboard compactor: A machine that crushes cardboard boxes and ties them into bundles. Bundles are then more easily recycled.

Child labor laws: Laws that protect children's rights in the workplace.

Chronic injury or illness: An illness or injury that persists over time.

Combine: A machine used for harvesting and threshing grain.

Confined space: Any space with limited openings and poor ventilation that can cause harm due to toxic gases or lack of oxygen.

Decibels: The units by which the intensity of sound is measured.

Dust: Tiny particles of solids.

Ear protection: Hearing protection, usually earplugs or earmuffs.

Engineering controls: Protective measures taken to prevent exposure to a hazard by changing the equipment or instruments that are used to do a job.

Ergonomics: Practices that make a job fit the worker instead of force the worker to fit the job.

Fair Labor Standards Act: Enacted in 1938, this act protects the rights of all workers, including children. The act played an important role in making the workplace safer for children.

Grain bin: A container in which grain is stored.

Hazard: Anything that can harm a person—physically or mentally.

Hazard map: A map showing the location of hazards in a workplace.

Hypothermia: An illness caused by loss of heat in the body.

Illness: The condition of being in poor health; sickness; disease.

Ingestion: Taking a substance into the body through the mouth; swallowing.

Inhalation: To breathe a substance into one's lungs. Substances that are inhaled may then spread to the bloodstream.

Injury: Harm or damage done to a person's body.

Limitations: Restrictions or negative results of an action, such as the enactment of a law.

Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS): Detailed information sheet on chemicals and their ingredients, safety precautions, and use. MSDS generally are prepared and made available by chemical manufacturers.

Microorganisms: Microscopic organisms such as bacteria, viruses, and molds.

Permanent injuries or illnesses: Injuries or illnesses that remain with a person for the rest of his or her life.

Personal protective equipment: Equipment workers wear to act as barriers between themselves and hazards.

Power takeoff: A rotating shaft that powers a moving piece of equipment, often seen on a farm.

Prevention strategy: A variety of actions that can be taken to prevent injuries or illnesses from happening in the workplace. Administrative controls, building barriers, and communication are three main categories of prevention strategies.

Risk: The chance that an injury or illness will happen given certain workplace conditions.

Routes of entry: The different ways hazardous substances can get into the body.

Safety action plan: A guide that is used to implement safety changes in the workplace.

Safety team: A group of people, either employ-

ees or outside consultants, who work to create a safer workplace for a particular business or organization.

Temporary injuries or illnesses: Injuries or illnesses that last a short period of time.

Vapors: Tiny drops of liquid suspended in the air.

Worker safety laws: Laws that protect the health and safety of workers, including children.

Workplace hazard: Anything in the workplace that can harm a person—physically or mentally.

Workplace biological hazard: Hazards in the workplace caused by contact with living things or their byproducts.

Workplace chemical hazard: Any chemical in the workplace that can cause injuries or illnesses.

Workplace physical hazard: Hazards in the workplace caused by the transfer of energy from one object to another.

Worker Safety and Health Education Resources

General Worker Safety Information

- **United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Preventing Deaths and Injuries of Adolescent Workers*. May, 1995. (NIOSH 95-125)**

An 11-page report on adolescent injury statistics and worker safety regulations.

- **U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration. *Personal Protective Equipment*. (OSHA 3077), 1998. Chicago Office: (312) 353-2220. <http://www.osha.gov>**

A 30-page booklet covering the various regulations related to the use of protective equipment in the workplace.

- **United States Environmental Protection Agency. *A Guide to Heat Stress in Agriculture*. (EPA-750-b-92-001), 1993. Chicago Office: (312) 886-6006.**

A 44-page booklet describing the various safety measures that can be taken to prevent heat stress in agricultural occupations.

- **National Research Council Institute of Medicine. *Protecting Youth at Work: Health, Safety, and Development of Working Children and Adolescents in the United States*. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press, 1998.**

A general report on health and safety issues of working teens.

Child Labor Information

- **American Federation of Teachers. *Child Labor: A Selection of Materials on Children in the Workplace*. American Federation of Teachers, International Affairs Department, 555 New Jersey Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20001-2079, 1994. <http://www.aft.org>**

A compilation of journal articles and reports on the current status of child labor around the world. Appropriate as background reading for a teacher.

- **Mofford, Judith, ed. *Child Labor in America*. Carlisle: Discovery Enterprises, Ltd., 1997.**

A collection of stories and photographs depicting the history of child labor in the United States.

- **Parker, David. *Stolen Dreams: Portraits of Working Children*. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications Company, 1998.**

With vivid pictures, the author describes the current state of child labor in developing countries. This book provides timely information at a level appropriate for high school students.

- **Saller, Carol. *Working Children*. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, Inc., 1998.**

Using historical photographs, the author recounts the history of child labor in this country. Geared to students with a lower reading level.

- **Weiner, Myron. *The Child and the State in India*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1991.**

This book reviews both the state of child labor in India, as well as the history of child labor in the United States and other countries. This book would be helpful as background reading on the topic.

Worker Safety Curricula

- ***Teens, Work and Safety: A Curriculum for High School Students*. Labor Occupational Health Program, Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, University of California, Berkeley, 1997.**

A comprehensive curriculum providing lesson materials geared to English, science, U.S. government and social studies content areas.

This same organization has developed a series of booklets on workplace safety. Titles include the following:

- “Worker’s Guide To Toxics On The Job”
- “Welder’s Guide To Toxics On The Job”
- “Construction Worker’s Guide To Toxics On The Job”
- “Machinist’s Guide To Toxics On The Job”
- “Collision Repair Workers’ Guide To Toxics On The Job”

Worker Safety Organizations

- ***Farm Safety 4 Just Kids*, 110 South Chestnut Avenue, P.O. Box 458, Earlham, IA 50072-0458. Phone: 1-800-423-5437 or (515) 758-2827. <http://www.fs4jk.org>**

An organization whose sole purpose is to provide educational resources on farm safety for children. Many of their products are geared to elementary age children, but some could be adapted to a teen audience.

- ***Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry*, 443 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155. Phone: (651) 284-5005-messaging system; (651) 284-5000-Front Desk. Toll-free: 1-800-342-5354. Email: workerhealth@health.state.mn.us**

This organization provides up-to-date information on Minnesota’s worker safety laws and legal issues in the workplace.

- **Farm Safety and Health Information Clearinghouse, Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, 219 Biosystems & Ag. Engr., 1390 Eckles Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108-6005. Phone: (612) 624-7444**

This organization provides curriculum materials and general information on farm safety.

- **Minnesota Extension Service, University of Minnesota, 240 Coffey Hall, 1420 Eckles Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108-6070. Phone: (612) 625-1915**

Your local county extension office can give you more information about farm safety. Look in your local phone book for your county office phone number or call this general number for information.

Internet Resources

- **Minnesota Department of Health Center for Occupational Health and Safety**

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/dpc/cdee/occhlh.htm>

This website provides information on the programs and activities within the MDH Center for Occupational Health and Safety.

- **U.S. Department of Labor**

<http://www.youthrules.dol.gov> (*This website currently having problems*).

Try: <http://www.dol.gov/dol/topic/youthlabor/index.htm>

This website has a wealth of information about teen work safety. Learn about worker safety laws and how to be safe in the workplace.

- **Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry**

<http://www.doli.state.mn.us/childlbr.html>

This website provides up-to-date information on Minnesota's worker safety laws.

Visit this location on their website for information specific to teen labor laws:

<http://www.doli.state.mn.us/laborlaw.html#Child>

- **Minnesota Safety Council**

<http://www.mnsafetycouncil.org/home.cfm>

This website provides general safety information.

- **Farm Safety and Health Information Clearinghouse**

<http://www.safety.coafes.umn.edu>

This website provides a wealth of information about farm safety. It is an excellent place to start learning about safety issues on a farm.

- **National Farm Medicine Center**

<http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc>

This website provides information on farm safety issues. By going to the following address on their website, you can find additional links to other resources:

<http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc/resource/default.htm>

