

**UTAH LABOR COMMISSION
OSHA CONSULTATION PROGRAM
PRESS RELEASE**

**The Utah Occupational Safety and Health
Division (UOSH) announces:**

**“YOUNG WORKER SAFETY & HEALTH
CAMPAIGN 2011”**



In an effort to increase awareness of the importance of teen summer job safety, the Utah Labor Commission Occupational Safety and Health Consultation Program (UOSH Consultation) announces its annual **YOUNG WORKER SAFETY & HEALTH CAMPAIGN 2011**.

“Teenagers are twice as likely to be hurt on the job as are their adult co-workers”, said Utah Labor Commissioner Sherrie Hayashi. “Nationally, approximately 158,000 sustain work-related injuries, with 52,600 injuries serious enough to be treated in the emergency room.”

Approximately 1.9 million adolescent ages 15 to 17 years worked in the U.S. in 2009. Official employment statistics are not available for younger adolescents who are also known to work, especially in agricultural settings. In 2008, 34 youth under age 18 died from work-related injuries, this number does not include those that died while driving a motor vehicle or this number would much higher.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the leading causes of teenage deaths on the job during 2008 are: motor vehicle accidents; contact with electric current; oxygen deficiency, i.e., drowning, choking on an object or substance, depletion of oxygen in an enclosed, restricted or confined space; assaults and violent acts; and exposure to harmful environment or substance.

Each year, the UOSH Consultation Program provides two booklets designed to address some of the most frequently asked questions asked by young workers and their parents.

- **WHAT HAZARDS SHOULD I WATCH OUT FOR?**
- **COULD I GET HURT OR SICK ON THE JOB?**
- **WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS ON THE JOB?**
- **WHAT ARE MY SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES ON THE JOB?**
- **IS IT OK TO DO THIS KIND OF WORK AT MY AGE?**
- **SHOULD I BE WORKING THIS LATE OR THIS LONG?**
- **WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT SAFETY ON THE JOB?**

The Parent’s Guide to Youth Workers” and “The Youth Workers’ Guide to Workplace Safety” are available at www.laborcommission.utah.gov.

This year the UOSH Consultation Program is working to create awareness regarding distracted driving from texting which has become an epidemic in the United States, and its often fatal consequences. Youth have an even higher risk of injury from distracted driving. Please take a look at the **OSHA** and **NIOSH** distracted driving resources! <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/teenworkers/index.html>, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/youth/>, <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/talkingsafety/video.html>

For more information regarding workplace safety and health, please contact the Utah Labor Commission OSHA Consultation Program at 801-530-6855, on line at www.laborcommission.utah.gov or via e-mail at UOSHconsultationprogram@utah.gov

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