

## YOUNG WORKERS

Recently, members of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers had the honor of speaking to Ontario high schools on health and safety with the *Our Youth at Work* not for profit organization. Featuring the message of Mr. Rob Ellis, who lost his son in a workplace accident, numerous organizations came together in different high schools to address student health and safety concerns. This message was heard by approximately 10,000 students across 10 cities in a OYAW simulcast.

Young workers are typically defined as being between 15-24 years of age. However, in terms of inexperience and knowledge, the term 'young worker' and 'new worker' are interchangeable. Whether we're talking about a new boilermaker apprentice or a young family member in a part-time or summer job, young workers represent one of the highest risk groups for injury on the job. Generally speaking, young workers are 3 to 4 times more likely to be injured on the job within the first 4 weeks.

For supervisors, set aside time before work starts for proper orientation and training of young workers. While supervisors have a direct responsibility to train young workers, everyone should take on a mentoring role. Young workers are often unable to recognize hazards and are less likely to ask questions. Young workers need instruction and guidance from experienced workers. Pass on what you know for everyone's safety.

Resources can be found in the partial list of useful Young Worker links below:

[CCOHS JobSafe](#)

[Worksafe BC](#)

[Alberta Workplace Health and Safety](#)

[Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health Division](#)

[Ontario WSIB](#)

[Youngworker.ca](#)

[WHSCC NB](#)

[WCB NS](#)

