

Essential Protections: Young Workers During the COVID-19 Pandemic

By: J.L. Maclachlan, Chair

AIHA Teen Workplace Health & Safety Committee

California Industrial Hygiene Council Webinar
February 9, 2021



Started as a Task Force 2017-2020



<https://www.aiha.org/get-involved/volunteer-groups/teen-workplace-health-and-safety-committee>

Garnered Full Committee Status in 2020



Why do we need a teen workplace safety committee?



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Teen Worker Injury Statistics

- Approximately 1.6 million teens (aged 15–17) in the United States work. About 50% of 10th graders and 75% of 12th graders have jobs.
- A teenager in the U.S. is injured on the job every 9 minutes.
- On average, each year
 - 59,800 workers younger than 18 are sent to the ER for job-related injuries, but actual injury statistics are probably much higher.
 - 37 workers younger than 18 die on the job.
 - Young workers are twice as likely to be injured than adult workers.

Mission:



The mission of the AIHA Teen Workplace Health & Safety Committee is to Empower young workers to promote a culture of health and safety through education and the practice of health and safety fundamentals.

Committee Action Plan 2021

1. Teen Workplace Poster Project* & videos incl. TikTok videos

2 "Zoom" & Self-Service Versions of Safety Matters; PDC development

3. Re-Tool Safety Matters graphics using teen graphic artists (like a poster contest/incl stipends)

4. Including a theme of teen mental health management throughout our deliverables

* <http://backtoworksafely.org>



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Teen Worker Safety Matters



Copy link

Keep **yourself safe** on
the job with these quick tips:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8fivRGGibBU>

What's
around me?



Be aware of your
surroundings.

MORE VIDEOS

What could
hurt me?



Be prepared for
possible dangers.

What could
go wrong?



Consider everything
that can go wrong.

What can I do
to keep that
from happening?



Take precautions for
the future.

1:57 / 2:29

YouTube

<https://community.aiha.org/home>

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Teen Workplace Health and Safety Committee

 Settings

Community Home

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Managing a teen workforce during the pandemic

Jen Maclachlan, 2020 Rear Commodore

Rear Commodore
Duties:

- Responsible for House Committee
- And 10 weeks of daily operations at the grill includes hiring, managing and supervising a teenage workforce.

VOLUNTEER POSITION

TWO GOALS:

- ✓ 1) KEEP THE TEENAGE WORKERS SAFE & HEALTHY
- ✓ 2) KEEP THE MEMBERSHIP SAFE & HEALTHY



TRAINING OF TEENAGE STAFF DURING SUMMER 2020/COVID-19

- 1) COVID-19 Protocols (MA)
- 2) COVID-19 House Rules
- 3) Serv Safe online training: COVID-19 Reopening Precautions & Takeout
- 4) Kitchen worker training led by local area Chef
- 5) Safety Matters Training
- 6) Recurrent Training





Safety Matters

A Safety & Health Training for Young Workers

Safety Matters provides an overview of 4 Major Topics:

1. Worker Injuries
2. Finding Hazards
3. Making the Job Safer
4. Knowing YOUR RIGHTS as a Worker

Facilitated by Jennifer Maclachlan, Chair AIHA Teen Workplace Health & Safety Committee



Everyone is at risk for being hurt on the job, and all jobs have hazards.

Finding Hazards:

Topic 2





Teaching Safety Matters in the workplace is relatable

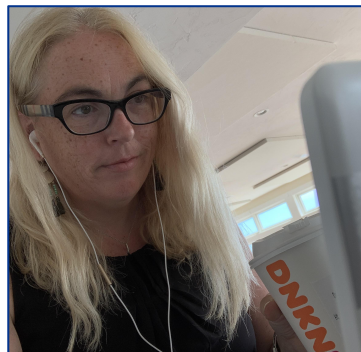
CHALLENGES:

- 1) OLD HABITS DIE HARD
- 2) KEEPING UP WITH THE COVID-19 CDC CLEANING SCHEDULE
- 3) POLICING MASKS INSIDE THE BUILDING & ON THE DOCK



CHALLENGES: 1) Not picking children up 2) Subcontracting tasks 3) Ignoring daily tasks 4) Not taking “an all-day break” 5) Phone use-Making TikToks 6) Wearing masks properly 7) Disappearing when supervisor was on a call/in a meeting 8) ‘Fake cleaning’ 9) Moods/Emotions





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