

Young People on Site

Prepare: Quiet location? No distractions? Talk aids ready?

Reason: Construction sites are hazardous places, even for adults who are aware of the dangers.

Why: Young people, with their lack of safety awareness, are particularly at risk of work related injury or ill health.

Outline: This talk will cover why young persons are vulnerable and what we all should be doing to safeguard their health and safety on site.



Who Is A Young Person?

- Health and safety law defines a young person as being over school leaving age but who has not yet reached the age of 18.
- The law does not prohibit the employment of young people on construction sites.

What Are The Problems?

- Young people will not have the same level of safety awareness as someone more experienced.
- For some young people a construction site will be their first experience of a place of work.
- Changes in legislation now place a greater responsibility on the employers of under 18 year olds. Restrictions exist as to the competence of such people to drive plant and equipment.
- Young people will require a greater level of supervision than an adult, the level depending on their job and site conditions.
- Young people might be more tempted to arrive at work whilst unfit due to several factors.
- Young people might create dangerous situations because of an eagerness to please.

Protection Of Young People

- Be aware of their lack of safety awareness, their physical and

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psychological immaturity and their inexperience.

- Risk assessments must take account of young people being on site and jobs that they are required to do; it's a legal duty.
- Only give young people jobs to do that they can cope with both physically and mentally.
- Do not allow young people to carry out particularly dangerous jobs such as using cartridge operated tools.
- Whatever the job, ensure the level of supervision is adequate.
- Be aware that if young people are working near to you be prepared to stop any activity that is clearly unsafe.
- Encourage young people to speak out if they do not feel safe with what they have been asked to do; it may only be a case of reassurance or maybe more supervision is required.

Q: What actions should you take if you witness a young person in a position of danger?

- Ensure that young people attend site induction even if they are only going to be on site for a short time.
- Do not tolerate horseplay or other unsafe high spirits.
- Note to supervisor: Now inform your workforce of the company policy regarding safeguarding the health and safety of young people on site.

Do you have any questions for me?

Questions for you

Q: What do you do if a young person arrives unfit for work? Q:

How do you assess the correct level of supervision?

Sources

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/pdf/fatalinjuries.pdf>
<https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/industry/construction.pdf>

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