

ARE YOU AS SAFE AS YOU THINK?

ASK YOURSELF THREE QUESTIONS.

TEACHER NOTES

The slide show is presented in three sections, each based on a question young workers should ask themselves when considering their workplace safety. Each of the three sections includes:

- ~ Question slide*
- ~ “**RIGHT TO. . .**” slide*
- ~ Information slides*
- ~ “**Your Turn. . .**” slide, which outlines a student activity*
- ~ “**Remember. . .**” slide, which summarizes the worker right*

HOW COULD I GET HURT AT WORK?

- All workers have the “right to know” all the information they need to be safe at work
- Employers have responsibilities around keeping their workers safe
- Workers, too, have responsibilities around keeping themselves and their co-workers safe
- Recognizing and reporting hazards is a critical part of workplace safety

Student Activity

Possible responses for completion of Hazard Assessment Table:

Hazard	What could happen?	How could it be corrected?
Heavy items stored up high	Workers could injure themselves when trying to get heavy items down	Store heavy items on lower shelves
Boxes stacked on top of one another	Boxes could topple over, and injure workers	Store boxes on shelving meant for storage
Worker using plastic boxes for climbing	Worker could fall and injure himself	Provide step ladder for use when climbing is necessary
Gas cylinder unsecured	Cylinder could tip over, risking explosion	Secure cylinder with cords or brackets
Electrical panel blocked by clutter	No quick access to electrical panel, if needed	Clear clutter from in front of panel
Unlabeled bottle on shelving unit	Exposure to chemicals without knowledge of related hazards could cause burns or illness	Clearly label contents of all bottles
Box protruding from shelf	Quick exit, if needed, would not be possible for workers	Store items on appropriately sized shelving
Damp cardboard box on shelf	Mould could develop, putting workers' health at risk	Discard box (and contents if necessary) Protect storage boxes from damp conditions

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DO I HAVE A SAY IN MY WORKPLACE SAFETY?

- All workers have the “right to participate” in workplace safety decisions
- Informal ways of participating include talking, asking questions, making suggesting, sharing ideas, etc
- Formal ways of participating include bringing health and safety concerns to the Health and Safety Representative or a member of the Joint Health and Safety Committee, or even serving in these roles
- The Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Act outlines the responsibilities of employers around the establishment and operations of a Joint Health and Safety committee and/or Health and Safety Representatives

Student Activity

Role-play should include a conversation between a worker and a supervisor, in which the worker brings forward a health or safety concern. If necessary, remind students that respect and courtesy are always called for in workplace discussion.

WHEN DO I SAY, “NO!”?

- All workers have the “right to refuse” unsafe work
- Refusing isn’t easy to do, but is worth the effort if it results in the prevention of injury
- There is a right way to go about refusing
 - Start by talking with your supervisor
 - If necessary, talk with your Health and Safety Rep, or a member of the Joint Health and Safety Committee
 - If necessary, call OHS
 - Stay at your workplace until your shift is over
- Workers should consider exercising their right to refuse if they are ever assigned a task without being provided the necessary training, safety equipment, supervision, or support needed to safely perform the task

Student Activity

Poster should incorporate one guideline (as in examples provided) to help a worker know when to refuse work. Poster should be designed so as to communicate the point effectively.

Visit www.wcb.pe.ca, telephone (902) 368-5697, or email ohs@wcb.pe.ca.

