



# Youth Worker Safety

## The Construction Industry

Late spring and early summer is the beginning of the busy construction season for many construction contractors and employers in Michigan. At the same time many high school and college youth become available for summer jobs. Construction employers may hire some of these young workers to help them through the busy construction season. **Many construction activities are restricted for workers under the age of 18 by State and Federal laws.**

### Work Environment:

#### Activities that are prohibited or restricted

- Excavation, highway, bridge, or street construction, roofing, wrecking, or demolition
- New commercial or new residential construction including clean up.
- Contact with hazardous substances, chemicals, explosives or radioactive substances
- Operating large construction equipment such as cranes and bulldozers
- Operating power-driven woodworking equipment, tools, saws, or machinery
- Brazing, welding, soldering or heat-treating

#### Activities typically permitted

- Painting with latex paint in residential construction using a stepladder
- Maintain/distribute tools and materials
- Conduct office activities in jobsite trailer

#### Primary Hazards

- Heights greater than six feet
- Electric shock
- Caught by rotating and moving equipment
- Struck by moving vehicles and equipment
- Trench and excavation cave-in
- Chemical burns and excessive exposure
- Thermal burns from hot metal
- Lifting heavy objects
- Exposure to extreme temperature

### Solutions:

#### Clothing & Protective Equipment

- Wear appropriate work boots, long pants, sleeves and gloves
- Wear head protection (hard hat) and eye protection in all construction zones
- Wear hearing protection when around noisy equipment
- Wear lightweight/light-colored clothing in hot environments

#### Tools & Equipment

- Inspect tools and equipment before use
- Maintain a safe distance from rotating and moving equipment

#### Other Job Safety Issues

- Get help by using safe lifting techniques and devices
- Provide appropriate training to recognize workplace hazards
- Train on any chemicals that will be used
- Read and obey all warning signs
- Keep the job site clean
- Ensure adequate ventilation when exposed to airborne contaminants
- Use sunscreen when outdoors
- Drink plenty of water in hot environments
- Replace salts and minerals in a hot environment
- When unsure, ask questions
- Do not perform work if you have not been trained

**Employers must be aware that certain construction work is prohibited or restricted for workers under the age of 18. Contact the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, Wage and Hour Division at 855-464-9243 or [Michigan.gov/wagehour](http://Michigan.gov/wagehour).**

**Or contact:**

Consultation Education and Training Division  
Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
530 W. Allegan Street, P.O. Box 30643, Lansing, MI  
517-284-7720 or [www.michigan.gov/miosha](http://www.michigan.gov/miosha)

