



Department of Labor & Economic Growth
Keith W. Cooley
Director

Construction Safety and Health Division

Youth in Construction

Many construction contractors and employers in Michigan experience late spring and early summer as the beginning of a busy construction season. 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. **Employers need to be aware that many construction work activities are restricted for workers under the age of 18.**

Each year in the U.S. 60-70 teens die from work-related injuries and more than 200,000 seek emergency medical attention. In Michigan, the construction industry is the most hazardous. Although the construction industry comprises approximately 5% of the Michigan workforce, in recent years construction has accounted for more than 40% of workplace fatalities. In calendar year 2006, MIOSHA investigated 26 fatalities in the construction industry including 9 falls, 3 cave-ins, 3 electrocutions, 5 struck-by vehicle/equipment incidents, 3 caught-by equipment incidents, 2 explosions, and 1 chemical exposure.

This is why the **Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, Wage & Hour Division** restricts the type of work that individuals under the age of 18 can do under the **Youth Employment Standards Act, 1978 Public Act 90**. Some of the hazardous construction work activities that are or may be restricted are:

- 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.

For complete information on restricted occupations including construction, please visit the Wage & Hour website at; www.michigan.gov/wagehour, click; Youth Employment; Restricted Occupations. The Wage & Hour Division can also be contacted at (517) 335-0400. For information on Safety and Health in construction please visit the MIOSHA website

at; www.michigan.gov/miosha, or contact the MIOSHA Consultation Education and Training Division at (517) 322-1809. Additional information is also available on the OSHA website at; www.osha.gov/SLTC/teenworkers.

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