

National Youth Safety Essay Scholarship Contest Winner

Christopher Burns

Shawsheen Valley Regional Technical High School

“Fourteen Americans are killed on the job every single day of the year. In addition, tens of thousands die every year from workplace disease and over 4.6 million workers are seriously injured on the job” (OSHA). Workplace fatalities and injuries are common in the workforce, and can happen to anyone, especially those uneducated. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or OSHA, works to provide instruction on starting and staying safe where you work to those who need the knowledge of workplace safety. I myself can say that CareerSafe’s General Industry 10-Hour safety course has effectively taught me how to start safe and stay safe. Although this course has communicated all the necessary information on safety, the most important thing that I learned was being able to demonstrate to the uneducated the principles of safety. Imparting others with safety information prevents myself and others from suffering harms in the workplace, classroom, and even in the confines of my home.

CareerSafe’s general industry program has allowed me to teach others responsibly about the importance of safety in the workplace. My current job is being a part-time janitor at the local Boys and Girls Club, which supports an average of over 300 children a day. Keeping everyone safe in the facility is a huge priority. Before this course, I had minimal safety knowledge to spread to others and prevent workplace harms. After this thorough course on general safety, I am now able to keep everyone who walks through the building’s door safe. I am able to instruct them on the necessary ways to handle the possibility of a dangerous situation. I can also inform the staff on how to handle a potentially injury-inflicting situation, which ultimately creates a healthier and safer working environment. My capability to share healthy safety practices has helped to create this atmosphere.

The safety ideologies taught in the general industry course are not just limited to workplace encounters with hazards, but can also help prevent harm in the classroom. I am a business technology student at a vocational high school, so working with computers and stationary equipment is a constant in my school life. However, working with computers involves the potential for injuries and hazards with all the exposed cords and the risk of eye strain for the user. Through the methods and necessary action I was able to learn in the general safety course, I can now keep not only myself safe, but my fellow peers in the classroom. Preventions like closing file cabinets when not in use, or securing electrical outlets away from fire-inducing catalysts, my classroom is safe due to my ability to share safety awareness with others.

Safety is needed everywhere in our lives, even in what we think is the safest place in our lives; our home. Although safety in my house is stressed, CareerSafe has permitted me to secure my house even more than I thought was conceivable. Through my learned skill of sharing the importance of safety and hazard prevention with others, my house is a sanctuary for safety. My parents, who grew up in a generation where safety was not as prevalent as now, can now operate their lives safely. I also have a younger sister, who just entered her first years of school. She is still developing how to stay safe and function in the real world. By journeying through the general safety course, I can assist my sibling in becoming a safe person, so she can succeed in all aspects of her life. My home now has a conscientious mind of safety that promotes a healthy environment of learning and comfort.

CareerSafe’s general industry tutorial has taught me the significance of safety and how to implement safety in my workplace. Though not specifically addressed, I was able to derive how to take what I learned in this course and I apply it to all factors of my life. Through this understanding, the most important and self-satisfying skill I gained was being able to share my knowledge on safety to others, including, but not limited to, co-workers, teachers, parents, siblings, and more. Whether it is the workplace, classroom, or even the comfort of home, safety can be used and shared to create a better world for generations to come.