

National Youth Safety Essay Scholarship Contest Winner

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Working in hazardous surroundings is common in construction industries. OSHA ensures a safe work area for employees. OSHA's goal is to reduce fatalities, injuries, and illness that could occur and increase productivity and performance in the work area. Completing the 10-Hour General Industry course has made me more aware of hazards I encounter daily and how this course will benefit my future.

The 10 hour course consists of OSHA material that shows safety procedures that should be taken in work areas. It also included various dangers that could be hazardous in your work areas and ways to take precautions. Within this course, I acknowledged that danger is among us constantly and it's everyone's responsibility to ensure a safe environment. The OSHA 10-Hour course has made me realize that no matter the position you stand at, you have the ability to improve your work conditions. OSHA allows employees to take responsibility in their work area and file a complaint about unsafe conditions.

It also made me take precautions in my own work area at school. Since taking the OSHA course I have been planning out my actions before I get to work to ensure that safety is first and no one, including myself, is in harm. I've noticed that any decisions I make will not only affect me but those around me, so I have to be confident in everything I do. After taking the course, I am knowledgeable of my rights in the workplace.

The 10 hour course will also benefit me because I will be aware of my rights as an employee in a perilous workplace. I will have the knowledge of reporting my work area and be able to do so unknown by others because of the information provided in the course. Being able to report a dangerous workplace anonymously is an opportunity to continue to work in a place you enjoy and still ensure your safety. Not only is the environment important for the safety of employees but the employees themselves have to make their work area safe. If the employees aren't knowledgeable and haven't been well trained, they can make their environment unsafe. Without proper knowledge of how tools function, they can misuse it and endanger those around them. Not only is the lack of training a problem but if they see a potential danger and don't act on it— that can result in problems in the future. It is under everyone's control to guarantee a safe and productive workplace; they are all responsible for anything that occurs in the work area.

Most people will use the OSHA training for safety skills in a harmful work environment, but these skills can be used in your home as well. For example, some people are constantly involved in accidents at home; you don't have to just be in a working industry to be hurt. We are constantly facing potential danger and you don't have to be out in the open to be hurt. There are multiple dangers in your house that you can resolve using the skills learned in the OSHA 10-Hour course. In your home, you can encounter dangers like slipping and falling in the bathroom. To prevent slipping/tripping hazards, OSHA suggests cleaning any spills, marking spills, and removing obstacles from walkway, etc. This is just one example of how I relate the OSHA 10-Hour course to my own experience. There are many more that I can relate to in the future thanks to OSHA's safety course.