

National Youth Safety Essay Scholarship Contest Winner

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The 10-Hour OSHA training has impacted my life in the workforce in various methods, making me realize the dangers in my job and giving me the training to act and acknowledge the attitude that is needed to stay safe. I work in Standard Supply Distribution Center where forklifts, metal, copper, fiber-glass and sharp objects are dealt within my department of packaging. This wallet card is not just a piece of paper or certificate given to me but, in other factors, it has shown me the responsibility of how I should react and act in dangerous situations.

Every action planned is explained, from fire preventions, hearing protectors, PPE (personal protective equipment), flammable liquids, etc. The correct awareness and knowledge of the competencies for the first responder is a key importance that represents a combination of observable skills and abilities that contribute to the worker I am today. OSHA has taught me to take initiative in every workplace hazard. In my current job, I learned to always wear gloves as any incident can occur while grabbing sharp material within the warehouse. This wallet card has expanded my knowledge by even making me an Authorized Forklift Certified Operator. The benefits it has provided are phenomenal, from teaching me the safety of driving an LP forklift, an electric forklift and electric pallet jack. It showed me key points on how to be safe and be aware of my surroundings, and taught me how to step-by-step inspect the forklift before even getting on. This impact has brought me such positive feedback from my managers and supervisors as I improve as a worker and as a person.

I stated that the OSHA 10-Hour wallet card has not only impacted me as a worker, but also as a person in my personal life. The world is filled with danger from corner to corner. It has made me realized that I am an adult who is responsible for my action. Taking care of myself in the workplace and in my outside life has been a major impact, making me aware of the danger all around be and all the action plans I can do when these occur. My goals and aspirations will reflect on this card as in the future I plan to build my own company. Knowing the resources of OSHA and how it can make my workplace safer and healthier. Realizing the information that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration provides at such an early age, has brought great benefits for my future. It taught me how to take action from filing a safety and health complaint, reporting a death or severe injury, getting a whistleblower information, requesting a free consultation, and even the ability to ask questions online or through the phone. As a worker and student, I have improved greatly.

I started as a temporary worker in 2014 at the age of 15, going through the warehouse getting cuts and injuries from sharp objects and material that was lying around the workplace. When I received information from my instructor that we would encounter a 10-hour safety class to recognize the hazards within the workforce I saw no importance in it, as I believed I was well-prepared and taught. Thinking I knew everything in my job I believed I was an expert, but in reality I was mistaken. The class took me through a whole outlook of the hazards and chemicals that can be found around my job.

I came to my sense acknowledging the errors that were being made by me as a worker and student. I wasn't wearing the right equipment (PPE) in the appropriate situations nor was I taking care of myself and the environment around me. OSHA has brought upon me a major impact, as I improved from that temporary worker in 2015 to that full-time worker who is well-taught on the safety of the workforce and the skills which every manager and supervisor seeks/ Giving me the opportunity to expand in the warehouse reflecting a good impression on my name and the adult who I have become. Baby steps have been taken taking bigger steps into my life learning how to walk and take care of myself as a person and worker. The influence of these classes made me recognize how I can stay safe reporting any incident to my supervisor and making the right decisions.

This wallet card is not just a piece of paper and certificate given to me but in other factors, this has showed me the responsibility on how I should react and act in dangerous situations. The impacts it has carried through these past years are very significant as a worker learning to maintain myself safe building a characteristic of knowledge in the workforce. I once started in a temporary position and now I have transferred to a full-time. The OSHA 10-Hour safety certificate has changed my future prospering with great benefits.