

National Youth Safety Essay Scholarship Contest Winner

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In my senior year, I was introduced to the OSHA 10-Hour course that opened my eyes to safety precautions. Of course, I was aware of the basics of public work safety that companies include in the job training before you start working. However, what some companies forget to mention can be greatly beneficial to their employees. For example, certain jobs require employees to buy articles of clothing to prevent accidents such as slip-resistant shoes, pants, and protective glasses. According to OSHA, employers are required to provide personal materials that protects employees against hazards known as PPE (Personal Protective Equipment). If employees knew about this, it could keep them safe, save them money, and increase their work performance.

The OSHA 10-Hour training is not only beneficial to those who have taken the course but also to the coworker of that person because they can share their knowledge with them. OSHA has affected the way I can avert my coworkers from engaging in hazards. I remember one time, at work, I saw a fellow coworker unplug a cord from an outlet by the cable. That was a major hazard because the wire becomes frayed over time and may be easily subjected to cause an electric shock or fire. I quickly addressed my coworker and told him to pull the plug from the outlet not by the cable because it is safer and that's the correct way to do it. Since we are both on the same occupational level, he reluctantly unplugged the cord the right way, but I would rather have him resent me than be electrocuted.

Although OSHA may come at a cost to the employers it is an asset to the employees. The OSHA training is enforced by very few companies, so as an employee in a job that doesn't mean I was ahead of the game. I've personally benefitted from OSHA because I applied many procedures to my work place such as the four HAZCOM requirements. I brought it to my employer's attention that we needed a list of all chemicals that could pose a threat to the employees and information about their proper use also known as a safety data sheet. In addition, I recognized some of the cleaning materials we already used didn't have warning labels which is dangerous to employees who are allergic to certain things, so it would be advantageous if they knew the importance of chemical safety, recognized warning labels, and know the purpose of safety data sheets. The OSHA course may seem like a hassle in the beginning but is truly rewarding in the long run.

In spite of the fact I said that OSHA comes at a cost to employers, it can actually be the exact opposite. As stated by OSHA, in 2016, 5,190 were killed on the job that is equivalent to 14 or more deaths per day. Imagine the reductions in those numbers if every employee was susceptible to OSHA training. More employees would be aware of how to avoid fatal accidents by increasing their work performance and in return, employers save money for things such as health insurance.

Overall, this small OSHA card will provide me with big opportunities in the future. Whether I choose to work a part- or full-time job, I will be ahead of the game since I know the depth of general safety guidelines in different companies. Not only am I knowledgeable about safety procedures, but I can include them into training for my coworkers, expand the true assets of employees, and highlight benefits for employers.