

O[yes]! Speak Up. Work Safe.

The Oregon Occupational Public Health Program (OPHP) partnered with stakeholders to form the Oregon Young Employee Safety coalition (O[yes]).

O[yes]

Oregon young
employee safety

The Challenge

OPHP and Oregon State University (OSU) studied injuries among young Oregon workers and found that young workers may need special worker safety training and attention. In particular, older teens are still maturing cognitively, have little occupational experience, and are no longer covered by child labor laws. These workers may find themselves in risky workplace situations.

The Response

OPHP joined with public and private sector partners to form the O[yes] coalition. O[yes] is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity, and all work is performed by volunteers.

O[yes] engages young workers throughout the state with an annual “Speak Up. Work Safe.” video contest for high school students. O[yes] also hosts a Student Day at the Oregon Governor’s Occupational Safety & Health conference. Additionally, O[yes] developed a Talking Safety curriculum specific to young workers, and trained a cadre of professionals to deliver it.

The Impact

The O[yes] coalition includes government agencies, academia, professional organizations, and private sector employers. O[yes] is currently raising statewide safety professional awareness of its activities. It is collaborating to improve relationships with Oregon educators and students. Safety committees throughout Oregon have requested its teen safety training videos. The impact of O[yes] is being evaluated by OPHP and OSU.

“Speak up. Work safe. Work shouldn’t cost you your future.”
-O[yes] Video Contest

For more information, visit our website or contact:



<http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/WorkplaceHealth/Pages/index.aspx>

<http://youngemployeesafety.org/about-us/>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/OregonSafetyHealth>

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