

Student Handout

Worker rights and responsibilities

As a worker in British Columbia, you have the legal right to:

- Training in safe work procedures and how to recognize on-the-job hazards, **before** you start a new job or do a task for the first time, and **additional training** if you need or request it.
- Supervision to make sure you work without unnecessary risk.
- Employer-provided safety equipment required for your job (although you are responsible for safety footwear and headgear).
- Refuse work you think is unsafe – without being fired or disciplined for refusing.

If you don't feel safe:

- Explain to your immediate supervisor why you're not comfortable.
- If your immediate supervisor is unavailable or doesn't give you a good answer, go to his or her supervisor.
- If you're still not satisfied, talk to your safety representative, a member of the safety committee, or a shop steward.
- If none of these steps work, you can phone WorkSafeBC anonymously at 604-276-3100 in the Lower Mainland, or toll-free in B.C. at 1-888-621-7233.

As a worker, your responsibilities are to:

- Know and follow health and safety requirements affecting your job.
- If you don't know how to do something safely, ask for training before you begin work.
- Work safely and encourage your co-workers to do the same.
- Immediately report unsafe working conditions to your supervisor.
- Immediately report any injury to a first aid attendant or supervisor.
- Take the initiative. Make suggestions to improve health and safety.

