

## Purpose

In this lesson, students brainstorm and research the major causes of workplace injury.

## British Columbia Planning 10 Curriculum Connections

Prescribed Learning Outcomes	Suggested Achievement Indicators
<p><i>It is expected that students will:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyse practices associated with work-related risk reduction and injury prevention (e.g., safety training, hazard recognition, risk management, communication)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Students who have fully met the prescribed learning outcome are able to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe and discuss standard guidelines and procedures for reducing risk and injury in the workplace (e.g., following established safety guidelines such as those set out by the Workers' Compensation Board, knowing own abilities and limits, using safety and personal protective equipment, knowing where to go to address a problem)</li> <li>List and discuss primary causes of injury to young workers (e.g., inability to recognize and respond appropriately to hazards, lack of training)</li> <li>Create a list of factors that contribute to making workers and workplaces physically and emotionally safe (e.g., safety training programs, team building, harassment policies)</li> <li>Propose strategies to minimize workplace hazards</li> </ul>

## Teaching Strategies

- Brainstorming
- Online or print-based research
- Independent or pair work

## Suggested Time

- 1–2 hours

## Materials and Resources

- Teacher Resource 3: Causes of Industry-Specific Injuries*
- Student Handout 7: Young Workers: Be a Survivor*
- Student Handout 8: Causes of Workplace Injury Assignment*
- Student Handout 9: Workplace Hazards Risk Reduction*

## **Assessment Strategies**

- *Assessment Tool 3: Causes of Workplace Injury Assessment*

## **Preparation**

- Print copies of the student handouts and teacher resources and review them before teaching the lesson.



1. **Introduce** the lesson by informing students that WorkSafeBC statistics indicate three main causes for the high rate of young worker injuries:

- Lack of supervision or training
- Minimal knowledge of rights and responsibilities
- Lack of experience in recognizing hazardous situations

2. **Ask** students if any have ever been injured on a job. Invite them to share any stories they might have. Then ask them to suggest jobs they think might be hazardous, and describe the sort of hazards and hazardous activities that workers might experience in those jobs. Remind students that a hazard is an action or situation that could cause injury or death. Record their responses on the board. Responses could include:

Hazardous Jobs	Hazards and Hazardous Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lifting heavy items, operating equipment without proper training, repetitive work</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Logging work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lifting heavy items, falling from trees, operating equipment without proper training, being pinned under falling trees</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retail work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lifting objects, working on ladders or other raised areas, using knives, workplace violence</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warehouse work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repetitive lifting of heavy boxes, unstable stacks of product, operating a forklift without proper training</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restaurant work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slipping, tripping, handling hot items, carrying heavy trays, coming into contact with hot oil</li> </ul>

3. **Brainstorm** as a class possible major causes of injury in the workplace. Write students' answers on the board. Responses could include:

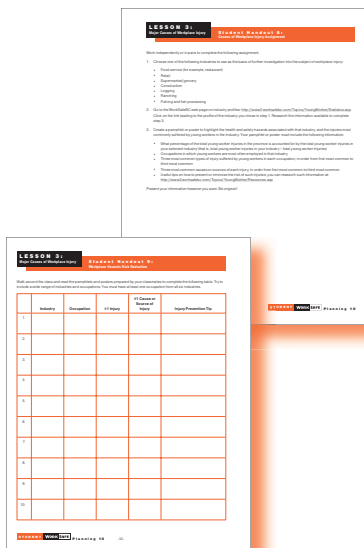
- a. Slips, trips, and falls
- b. Improper use of equipment
- c. Not turning power off when repairing equipment
- d. Being struck by falling objects or pushed into an object
- e. Improper use or storage of chemicals and other hazardous materials
- f. Improper handling of sharp objects (e.g., knives, glass, woodworking tools)
- g. Improper lighting
- h. Faulty equipment
- i. Vehicle accidents
- j. Improper lifting

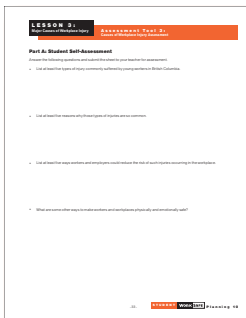
# LESSON 3: Major Causes of Workplace Injury

## Instructional Plan continued



4. **Ask** students to guess the top seven dangers for young workers in British Columbia. Refer to *Teacher Resource 3: Causes of Industry-Specific Injuries* and *Student Handout 7: Young Workers: Be a Survivor* for relevant information. At the end of the discussion, distribute copies of the handout to students. Point out to students that the highest number of young workers are injured in the retail and restaurant sectors (see the WorkSafeBC young worker web site <http://www2.worksafebc.com/Topics/YoungWorker/Home.asp> for information on industry claim profiles).
5. **Distribute** *Student Handout 8: Causes of Workplace Injury Assignment*. Have students work independently or in pairs to complete the assignment. Ask students to choose a particular British Columbia industry to use as the basis for further investigation. Then, have them conduct online research and consult print materials (see Adaptations) to determine which hazards are common to that industry. Ask students to record statistics on injury rates and costs and to present the information in the form of a poster or pamphlet.
6. **Display** student posters and pamphlets around the classroom. Distribute *Student Handout 9: Workplace Hazards Risk Reduction* and have students walk around the classroom to fill in the table.
7. **Debrief** with a discussion about risk reduction techniques. Consult <http://www2.worksafebc.com/Topics/YoungWorker/Resources.asp> to find relevant information on how to minimize hazards in the top industries for young worker claims in British Columbia.





### Adaptation

- If students do not have easy access to the Internet, arrange them in groups and have them share print research materials you can download from: <http://www2.worksafebc.com/Topics/YoungWorker/Statistics.asp> and <http://www2.worksafebc.com/Topics/YoungWorker/Resources.asp>

### Extensions

- Have students work in groups to create skits that depict a specific workplace hazard and how the risks associated with it can be reduced.
- Invite a speaker from the WorkSafeBC Young Worker Speakers Resource to come to your class and speak about his or her own experience. Consult the WorkSafeBC web site for more information: <http://www2.worksafebc.com/Topics/YoungWorker/Resources-Speakers.asp>
- Have students work together to create a newsletter that focuses on the subject of workplace hazards and injuries. Content should include articles based on the data students presented in the posters and pamphlets they created. Students can distribute copies of this newsletter to other students in the school.

### Assessment

- Distribute *Assessment Tool 3: Causes of Workplace Injury Assessment* and have students complete Part A. Collect these self-assessments and, in Part B, record your assessment of each student's work in this lesson.

