

POSITIVE TIPS FOR THE JOB MARKET

Workplace Safety

“It will never happen to me!” is often the response when talking about work place accidents. The fact is it can happen and it happens a lot. Last year in Alberta 124 people lost their lives at work and tens of thousands more were injured. Of these, over 1/3rd were young people aged 15 to 24 whom also thought that it would never happen to them. In order to prevent yourself from becoming a statistic you need know your role and responsibility in terms of worksite safety. Here are a few tips on how you can stay safe in the workplace.

The first and most important thing that you must understand is that you have the **right to refuse unsafe work**. If asked to perform a task that jeopardizes your health and safety you should refuse and explain the reason to your supervisor such as inadequate training, improper equipment, hazardous conditions, etc. Together, you will be able to discuss the dangers of the job in order to create a safe work practice or procedure to get it done. Asking for help when you have questions is the second tip. It is your employer’s responsibility to provide you with proper training to perform your job as well as the protective equipment to do it safe. More often than not your employer will have a safety manual on site containing tons of valuable information such as safe job practices and procedures. Our third safety tip is ‘to familiarize your self with your working environment, identifying any potential hazards and reporting them to your supervisor’. When you understand your environment you will recognize what Personal Protective Equipment is necessary and you will consciously avoid danger. Finally, the fourth tip is to know your role in case of an emergency. When you begin on a jobsite make sure you know where the first aid kit and fire extinguishers are kept, who the first aid qualified people are on site and what to do in case of a site evacuation or emergency.

It is everyone’s responsibility to ensure the safety of themselves, their co-workers and the places they work in. In the Bow Valley where development is booming, safety is often neglected for the sake of production. When you are considering whom you want to work for, make sure Safety is a key concern to your employer and not simply a statistic. Positive People Placement and our clients take a proactive approach to safety and by following these tips, you will too.

**For more information please contact
Positive People Placement at
(403) 996-1083**