

# HAZARD ALERT

## YOUNG TOWN WORKER FATALLY INJURED IN LAWNMOWER INCIDENT

**Young Workers** are between the ages of 15 and 24. Manitoba WCB reports determined they are 5 to 7 times more likely to be injured in the first 4 weeks of employment.

Why? They often have little work experience and a strong desire to prove themselves. They may be unaware of workplace risks and their consequences, may be scared or intimidated to speak up, especially if they are new, are eager to impress, and might be afraid to look foolish.

### How to Protect Young Workers

Young workers are included in the definition of vulnerable workers. They need extra considerations and accommodations to ensure training and competency. Here is a list of some ideas you can implement to help protect your young workers.



- Create a mentorship program and lead intentionally and by example
- Identify restricted activities / areas and communicate repeatedly
- Provide hands on training and supervision
- Encourage questions and the Right to Refuse dangerous work
- Communicate, communicate, communicate! Review requirements and rules regularly.
- Give 'tough love" (enforcement and disciplinary actions) when required; you could save a life.

### More Resources For Protecting Young Workers in mySafetyAssistant:

1. FREE Young Worker Safety Orientation Training
2. Safety for Young Workers Safety Talks
3. Young Worker Restrictions Hazard Alert

HAVE QUESTIONS? CONTACT US AT [INFO@1LIFEWSS.COM](mailto:INFO@1LIFEWSS.COM)

### Young Life Cut Short Rural Town of Drayton Valley, AB

A 21-year-old worker was injured while mowing grass near a retention pond. He was air lifted to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The town plead guilty to failing to ensure the equipment was operated in accordance with the specifications of a professional engineer or the manufacturer's specifications. The equipment's documentation states its not to be used near ditches, drop-offs, embankments or bodies of water.

The town was charged on 12 counts under Alberta OHS legislation.

December 2019 the town was fined \$300,000 plus an additional \$25,000 victim surcharge.

The fine is being invested into Alberta's Municipal Health and Safety Association for the development and implementation of a lawn mower safety program targeting summer staff to prevent a tragedy like this from happening again.

*NOTE: Any reference to the Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health Act and Regulation is for convenience sake only. The original text must be consulted for all intents and purposes of applying the law. Date of last revision and document confirmed current Feb 3, 2020. If you believe this document is out of date, please contact us.*

## RECORD OF HAZARD ALERT

<b>Company Name:</b>	<b>Work Location Dept.:</b>
<b>Talk Given by:</b>	<b>Date / Time:</b>

<b>Results of inspection, demonstration or other activity or suggestions during talk:</b>

<b>List of All Employees Who Attended the Safety Talk:</b>	
<b>Name (PRINT)</b>	<i>Signature</i>
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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Position Held: \_\_\_\_\_