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News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Job site is twice as dangerous for teenagers

Spring 2005 (LANSING, MICHIGAN) -- An estimated 4 million teenagers will enter the workforce this summer. Unfortunately, 70,000 teenagers will go to the emergency room due to injuries incurred while working in entry-level jobs.

Teenage injury workforce details

- The student workforce in the United States numbers 4 million during the summer months.
- Approximately 92 percent of American teenagers will one day enter the workforce.
- Most injuries occur in retail stores, restaurants and grocery stores.
- Each year, approximately 70 teenagers die in the U.S. from workplace injuries.
- Nationally, 70,000 teenagers receive treatment in emergency rooms for workplace injuries.
- Nationally, 140,000 teenagers receive medical treatment for non-life threatening injuries.
- A teen-aged worker is almost twice as likely to be injured on the job as an adult worker doing the same job.
- The estimated costs of lost work hours (including lost payroll taxes), medical care, paperwork processing and increased insurance premiums approaches \$1 billion each year.*

**Source: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health*

Students often don't receive appropriate or adequate job safety training. With twice as many teenagers being injured on the job as adults doing the same work, preventing work-related injuries among teens is vital. Accident Fund insurance Company of America is committed to creating awareness about the problem and providing solutions through training and educational resources for workers, parents and employers.



Practical Safety Tips

Tips for Parents: Source Accident Fund Insurance Company

- Meet your student's employer.
- Talk to your student about his or her job, their responsibilities, their working environment and their supervisor and coworkers.
- Ask if management has CPR and first aid training.
- Check the city and county police records to research workplace violence and injury incidents.
- Check with city or county inspectors to learn when the employer's facility was inspected last by the fire marshal and safety inspectors.

Tips for students: Source Accident Fund Insurance Company

- Review the employee handbook for your employer's safety regulations and procedures.
- Pay close attention to items such as an evacuation route, emergency procedures, and the accident reporting processes.
- Discuss with your supervisor the emergency phone contact listing. Make sure it is located and labeled by each phone.
- When you tour the facility, look for the following work safe elements:
 - Are fire extinguishers clearly labeled?
 - Are fire extinguishers accessible?
 - Are the floors clean and free of obstructions and hazards?
 - Is there adequate lighting in the hallways, stairwells and workstations?
 - Are hazardous materials and chemicals clearly labeled, sealed and sitting upright?
 - When in doubt, ask! Never assume you should know how to accomplish the task, or the correct answer to a question that could place your safety at risk.

Taking action to reduce work-related injuries

Accident Fund Insurance Company of America is one of the nation's premier workers' compensation insurance companies, and has committed its resources to educating teenagers, parents and employers on teenager work safety awareness. Currently, Accident Fund is sponsoring PASSES EDGE a 20-city campaign to educate teenagers on risks in the workplace. Accident Fund also pioneered WorkSafe Students; a teenager work safety awareness program in partnership with hospitals and school systems throughout the Midwest.

Headquartered in Lansing, Michigan, Accident Fund is one of the nation's leading Workers Compensation insurers, operating in 42 states and the District of Columbia. The company also provides third party administration services and disability management. Founded in 1912, Accident Fund is rated A (Excellent) by A.M. Best and is a member of Ward's 50 top property/casualty carriers

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