

# IMMIGRANT WORKERS' HEALTH & SAFETY 1-HOUR HAZARD IDENTIFICATION TRAINING

**GOAL:** This training is designed for a one-hour session with immigrant workers from a variety of industries and from multiple employers. It is a component piece of the overall Immigrant Worker Health & Safety Training curriculum developed by Make the Road New York. At the end of the training, workers should (1) be able to recognize hazards in the workplace; (2) know what OSHA is; and (3) know of their basic right to a safe workplace, regardless of immigration status.

## **I. Introduction [5 minutes]**

Introduce ourselves and what we will be talking about: worker health and safety / seguridad y salud laboral. Review the goals of the day.

Ask: Why is worker health and safety important? Por qué es importante la seguridad y salud de los trabajadores?

## **II. Ice Breaker: Stand up Activity [10 minutes]**

Ask participants to stand up if they agree with the following statements. (If the group is small enough, you can ask people to form a circle, and then those that agree with a statement step to the middle.)

- 1) He tenido que hacer trabajos que considere peligrosos
- 2) He visto a otros en el trabajo hacer trabajos que yo considere peligrosos
- 3) Me he lesionado en el trabajo
- 4) He visto a otra persona lastimarse en el trabajo
- 5) Me he lesionado en el trabajo tan gravemente que tuve que ir al doctor
- 6) Yo conozco alguien que se lastimó tan gravemente en el trabajo que tuvo que ir al doctor

- 1) I have had to do jobs I consider dangerous
- 2) I have seen others in my job do work that I consider dangerous
- 3) I have hurt myself on the job
- 4) I have seen someone else hurt him or herself on the job
- 5) I have hurt myself seriously enough on the job that I had to go to the doctor
- 6) I know someone who has hurt themselves seriously enough on the job that they had to go to the doctor.

## **III. Hazard Identification Activity [20 minutes]**

Depending on the audience size and the room set up, you can either divide participants in to small groups or ask people to partner with their neighbor for the next activity. Project the ABC Factory drawing on the wall and distribute copies to participants. [If you do not have projector, simply distribute paper copies to participants.]

Ask each group to identify all the possible hazards they see in the drawing. [5 minutes.]

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## Make the Road New York ■ 1-Hour Hazard Identification Workshop

Ask groups to volunteer examples of hazards. If projecting on the wall, have volunteers come up and mark on the white board or paper you are projecting on where they see a hazard. [5-10 minutes.]

Synthesize for the group that hazards are of different types: physical, chemical, biological, or other. Give examples of each, and ask for an example from the group of each.

### **IV. Legal Rights and OSHA [15 minutes]**

Ask for a volunteer to name the law or governmental agency that protects workers' health and safety on the job. Write up on the board "OSHA," and ask participants what year they think OSHA was created. [Answer: 1970.]

#### **Review workers' basic rights:**

##### **OSHA:**

- Applies to basically all workers
- Protects worker regardless of their immigration status
- Requires employers to provide a workplace free of known hazards. This might mean there are specific rules (e.g., about handling asbestos) or just a general right to have a safe workplace.
- Protects workers' rights to complain to OSHA if there are unsafe conditions.
- Requires employers to provide workers training on how to do their job safely, and to provide workers with protective equipment for hazards on the job.
- Protects workers against retaliation if they report an unsafe condition.

Emphasize that workers facing unsafe conditions should meet with a member of the Make the Road New York legal team for specific advice and help filing an OSHA complaint.

### **V. Evaluation [10 minutes]**

Distribute evaluation sheets for participants to complete. Collect sheets. If future trainings are scheduled, announce dates and times to group.

**ABC FÁBRICA DEL ROPA ABC GARMENT FACTORY**

**¿PUEDEN IDENTIFICAR LOS RIESGOS EN ESTE LUGAR DE TRABAJO? ■ CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE HAZARDS IN THIS PICTURE?**

Source: Your Rights at Work, an ESL Workbook, (1997, UNITE).



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