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## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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### Labor Urges Safety for Teens as Summer Work Begins

JUNEAU—With Alaska's summer hiring season here, the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development is urging teens, parents and employers to focus on providing safe workplaces for young workers.

"While workplace safety is a priority for all Alaskans, with increased numbers of Alaska's young people working in seasonal jobs, we're asking employers to place extra focus on youth workplace safety," Labor Commissioner Dianne Blumer said. "No job is more important than safety and health."

Information to help teens between 14 and 17 increase their chances of gaining a summer job, shorten their job search and keep them safe is available online at [Labor.Alaska.Gov/lss/childlaw.htm](http://Labor.Alaska.Gov/lss/childlaw.htm). The site provides information by age group about employment and job restrictions such as the number of hours teens are allowed to work.

"A work permit is required before starting work," Wage and Hour Investigator Joy Hartlieb said. "Both the employer and the teen fill out a portion of the work permit, which must be signed by a parent or legal guardian before being sent to the Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Administration for approval, either in person or by fax."

Work permit applications are available online at [Labor.Alaska.Gov/lss/forms/workpmit.pdf](http://Labor.Alaska.Gov/lss/forms/workpmit.pdf). The new form will be the only one accepted beginning Jan. 1.

"It is now employers' responsibility to verify age and keep a copy of proof of age on file," Wage and Hour Statewide Supervising Investigator Joe Dunham said. "Employers must also attest they have a valid Restaurant Designation Permit for a liquor license before the Department of Labor will approve a work permit for minors working at an establishment that serves alcohol to the public. This information will be verified with the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board."

The Department's Labor Standards and Safety Division youth trainer conducts seminars and training sessions on Youth Employment and Safety to high school students all across Alaska throughout the entire school year.

"The objective of YES is to advocate for more visible attention to prevent injuries, illnesses and fatalities among young workers," said Elaine Banda, who heads the safety youth training program. "Our overall goal is to educate young people, parents, educators, business managers and supervisors on strategies that can be implemented as part of a youth injury prevention program in the workplace."

For more information call Labor Standards and Safety toll free at 800-656-4972, go online at [Labor.Alaska.Gov/lss/contacts.htm](http://Labor.Alaska.Gov/lss/contacts.htm) or call or email one of these offices:

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| <b>Anchorage</b> | (907) 269-4900 | <a href="mailto:Anchorage.LSS-WH@alaska.gov">Anchorage.LSS-WH@alaska.gov</a> |
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**Alaska Child Labor Laws & Rights**  
[Labor.Alaska.Gov/lss/childlaw.htm](http://Labor.Alaska.Gov/lss/childlaw.htm) and [Labor.Alaska.Gov/lss/rights.htm](http://Labor.Alaska.Gov/lss/rights.htm)

**Alaska Occupational Safety and Health**  
[Labor.Alaska.Gov/lss/oshhome.htm](http://Labor.Alaska.Gov/lss/oshhome.htm)

**Labor Standards and Safety Division**  
[Labor.Alaska.Gov/lss/](http://Labor.Alaska.Gov/lss/)