

# 1 ICEBREAKER: STARTING THE CONVERSATION

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this activity is to engage young workers in an activity that sets the tone for future discussions about occupational safety and health. This activity uses historical trivia to highlight topics that will be discussed in depth during future activities.

## ACTIVITY TIME

Approximately 15 minutes

## PREPARATION

- Display the visual aid on a computer screen, TV, or projector screen. The visual aid can be found at: [www.promotingusafetyhealth.com](http://www.promotingusafetyhealth.com)

Click on "Start the Conversation Activities," then "Icebreaker Visual Aid."

Note: A video version of the activity is also available and can be found using the same instructions above.

- Print PUSH Cards.

## DIRECTIONS

Supervisor reads out loud

**Supervisor reads out loud**

### SUPERVISOR READS QUESTION

✘ *Do not read out loud*



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## BACKGROUND

**Young workers are twice as likely to be injured on the job than older workers. Can anyone give me some potential reasons for this?**

✘ *Call on staff for answers from young workers. A list of possible answers is provided below.*

### **Possible answers include:**

- ⊖ Lack of experience
- ⊖ Eagerness to do a good job
- ⊖ Sometimes taken advantage of
- ⊖ Improper/insufficient training
- ⊖ Impulsivity
- ⊖ Unaware of their hazards in the workplace
- ⊖ Unaware of their rights in the workplace
- ⊖ Physical or developmental differences
- ⊖ Distraction/lack of focus
- ⊖ Emotional distress
- ⊖ Alcohol and drug use
- ⊖ More sleepy

You're taking the PUSH Training because [employer name] wants you to know what a big deal safety on the job is. Staying safe at work ensures that you make it through the day so you can do the things you want to do, like spend your hard-earned paycheck.

In this activity, we'll look back in time to get some background on workplace safety and health.

## ACTIVITY

I'm going to read you a series of questions. You can vote on whether or not you think the statement is TRUE or FALSE by carefully moving to the corresponding side of the room

✘ *Select one side of the room to represent "true" and one side to represent "false." Have staff move to a side to choose a response.*

Let's do a practice round to make sure everyone gets the gist of the game.

**1. TRUE OR FALSE: IN THE 1930'S CONSTRUCTION WORKERS BUILDING THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE WERE THE FIRST BRIDGE WORKERS TO USE HARD HATS AND SAFETY LINES TO KEEP THEM SAFE ON THE JOB.**

✘ *Wait for staff to choose their answer then advance slide.*

FALSE!

Although the Golden Gate Bridge was not the first major construction project to feature hard hats and safety lines, it was the first project that enforced these safety precautions with the threat of dismissal.

Nowadays, employers are required to provide personal protective equipment, otherwise known as PPE, for hazardous tasks.

Great work everyone. I think you have the hang of it. Let's try another.

**2. TRUE OR FALSE: IN ENGLAND, DURING THE 17-1800'S KIDS AS YOUNG AS 4 YEARS OLD WERE EMPLOYED TO CLEAN CHIMNEYS.**

✘ *Wait for staff to choose their answer then advance slide.*

TRUE!

Small boys between the ages of 4 and 10 would crawl up the chimney brushing and scraping away soot as they went. Many didn't like the task, but the employers would use methods of encouragement such as prodding them up the chimney. In some cases, their employers would light a small fire under them to encourage them to move faster. That's where we get the saying "light a fire under you."

Fortunately, in most cases you need to be at least 14 in order to work in Oregon unless you have special permission. There are also limitations on the types of jobs people under 18 can do.

**3. TRUE OR FALSE: WORKER RIGHTS FOR THOSE UNDER THE AGE OF 25 HAVE COME A LONG WAY. IN FACT, BECAUSE OF POLICIES TO PROTECT YOUNGER WORKERS, THESE DAYS, INJURIES ARE RELATIVELY UNCOMMON.**

✘ *Wait for staff to choose their answer then advance slide.*

THAT IS FALSE!

Although there are policies to protect young workers, injuries are still a very common problem. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a young worker is injured on the job approximately every 45 seconds!

**4. TRUE OR FALSE: BEFORE THEY WERE FAMOUS, KANYE WEST WORKED AT THE GAP, BRAD PITT DANCED IN A CHICKEN SUIT, AND GWEN STEFANI WORKED AT DAIRY QUEEN.**

✘ *Wait for staff to choose their answer then advance slide.*

THESE ARE ALL TRUE!

Even glamorous stars had to make a living before they were rich and famous.

**5. TRUE OR FALSE: IN THE EARLY 1900'S THE RADIUM GIRLS WERE A GROUP OF FEMALE WRIST-WATCH ASSEMBLERS WHO PAINTED WATCH DIALS WITH RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL SO THE WATCHES WOULD GLOW IN THE DARK.**

✘ *Wait for staff to choose their answer then advance slide.*

THIS IS TRUE!

Radium girls used their mouths to shape paintbrushes into a fine point. In doing so, they ingested radioactive material, which made them sick. The owners of the watch company were aware of the dangers of radium and used masks and tongs to handle the substance, but neglected to inform their young female staff of the deadly hazard.

Nowadays, ALL employers are required to tell staff of hazards in their workplace, and to provide staff with proper training and equipment to keep them safe.

**6. TRUE OR FALSE: IN OREGON, YOU MUST BE 16 TO BE ABLE TO DRIVE AS PART OF YOUR JOB.**

✘ *Wait for staff to choose their answer then advance slide.*

THAT IS TOTALLY FALSE!

With the exception of very limited situations that require super special permission, you have to wait until you are at least 18 to drive a vehicle for work purposes.

**7. TRUE OR FALSE: HISTORY'S FIRST RECORDED LABOR PROTESTS (STRIKES) WERE ORGANIZED BY THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS IN THE 12TH CENTURY BC.**

✘ *Wait for staff to choose their answer then advance slide.*

TRUE!

Even though the pharaohs were regarded as living gods, workers were not afraid to protest working conditions. When they did not receive appropriate payment for their work, they organized a sit-in. They refused to leave the temple until they were paid their wages. All workers have a right to be paid at least minimum wage for their work.

**8. TRUE OR FALSE: ACCORDING TO THE BUREAU OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY, DEEP SEA FISHERMEN, LIKE THOSE SEEN ON THE TV SHOW "DEADLIEST CATCH," HAVE THE HIGHEST DEATH RATE IN THE UNITED STATES.**

✘ *Wait for staff to choose their answer then advance slide.*

That is FALSE!

Actually, logging has the highest death rate among occupations here in the US. That means proportionately, more loggers suffer work-related deaths than any other occupation. Fishing-related jobs are a close second.

Logging and fishing, along with other dangerous jobs, are common careers in Oregon. However, it is possible to have a long and safe career by following all of the proper safety protocols set by your employers.

Remember, your employer should train you on how to stay safe. It is your right to get the proper training to keep you healthy and safe for years to come. When you are on the job, speak up if you have questions or if you feel that you are in danger.

**PUSH FORWARD**

✘ *Pass out PUSH cards.*

On your card is a link to the Promoting U through Safety and Health page ([www.promotingusafetyhealth.com](http://www.promotingusafetyhealth.com)). If you follow this page you can learn about other ways to stay safe at home and at work.



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## VISUAL AID — ACTIVITY ANSWERS

### TRUE OR FALSE

In the 1930's construction workers building the Golden Gate Bridge were the first bridge workers to use hard hats and safety lines to keep them safe on the job.



**FALSE**



### TRUE OR FALSE

In England, during the 17-1800s youngsters as young as 4 years old were employed to clean chimneys.



**TRUE**



## TRUE OR FALSE

Worker rights for those under the age of 25 have come a long way. In fact, because of policies to protect younger workers, these days, injuries are relatively uncommon.



# FALSE



## TRUE OR FALSE

Before they were famous, Kanye West worked at the GAP, Brad Pitt danced in a chicken suit, and Gwen Stefani worked at Dairy Queen.



# TRUE



## TRUE OR FALSE

In the early 1900's the Radium Girls were a group of female wrist-watch assemblers who painted watch dials with radioactive material so the watches would glow in the dark.



# TRUE





## TRUE OR FALSE

In Oregon, you must be 16 to be able to drive as part of your job.

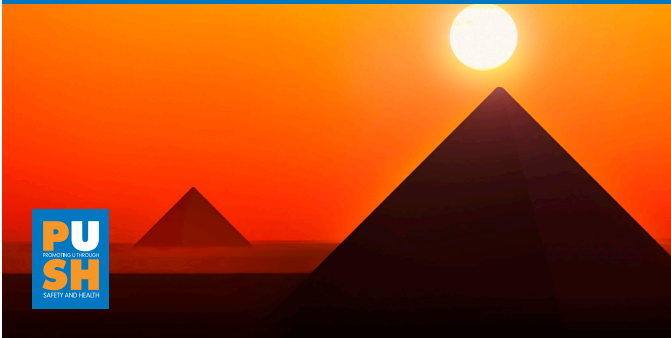


# FALSE



## TRUE OR FALSE

History's first recorded labor protests (strikes) were organized by the Ancient Egyptians in 12th century BC.



# TRUE



## TRUE OR FALSE

According to the Bureau of Labor and Industry, deep sea fishermen, like those seen on the TV show Deadliest Catch, have the highest death rate of all occupations in the United States.



# FALSE

