Safety and your cooperative work experience

You need to know...

The *Saskatchewan Employment Act* provides you with three basic rights as a student worker:

1. The right to **know** about the things that could hurt you at work and how to deal with them
2. The right to **participate** in finding and controlling workplace safety issues
3. The right to **refuse** work that you believe is unsafe

**Right to Know:**

You have the right to get information about how to be safe in your workplace. If your supervisor doesn’t tell you, **ask**! Ensure you know what can potentially hurt you at your workplace and ensure you understand the right way to stay safe.

**Right to Participate:**

If your supervisor is unable to help you with your safety concerns, discuss the concerns with your workplace Occupational Health Committee or your academic supervisor.

**Right to Refuse:**

You have the right to refuse to do anything you have **reasonable grounds to believe is unsafe**. An unusual danger could include:

- A danger that is not normal for the job (e.g., field sampling in inclement weather);
- A situation for which you are not properly trained, equipped, or experienced to do the work assigned (e.g., driving a forklift without training, working alone or in an isolated area without means of communication, etc).

**How you can help to ensure your safety:**

- Follow safe work procedures set out by your workplace;
- Use safety equipment, machine guards, safety devices, and personal protective equipment;
- Find out how to report unsafe situations;
- Report incidents and dangerous occurrences, injuries, or illnesses immediately to your workplace supervisor;
- Work and act safely and help others to work and act safely;
- Co-operate with committees and others on health and safety issues; and
- Refrain from causing or participating in the harassment of another worker.

Adapted from: Government of Saskatchewan Safety in the Workplace info. More info can be found here: [https://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/safety-in-the-workplace](https://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/safety-in-the-workplace)