

# Safety and health alert

# 11/06 Children in the workplace

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## Incident

An employee entered his employer's worksite on a weekend to carry out planned overtime work.

Contrary to his employer's requirements, the employee allowed his two sons aged 17 and 13 years to accompany him on site.

The youngsters were allowed to roam the site without supervision, which included access to an unsecured forklift.

During the morning the older boy was involved in an accident where the forklift driven by the younger boy collided with a wire mesh and steel post fence. The older boy was pinned partially under the forklift and against the fence.

The boy sustained serious crush injury to the pelvis area and cuts and abrasions to other parts of his body.

## Factors to consider

- Unauthorised persons were brought onto an industrial worksite and not adequately supervised.
- Bringing young persons to any workplace is particularly dangerous as young persons may not be able to appreciate the dangers of a new and unfamiliar workplace.
- The forklift was unsecured and able to be operated by an unauthorised person.
- An unauthorised and underage person was in control of the forklift.

## Recommendations

1. Employers should provide a system to ensure that ignition keys or other means of starting plant and equipment is never available to unauthorised persons on the worksite.
2. Employees should never bring unauthorised persons onto a worksite.

## Further information

Further information can be obtained from WorkSafe's internet site [www.worksafe.wa.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.wa.gov.au) or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email [safety@docep.wa.gov.au](mailto:safety@docep.wa.gov.au)

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