

FACE Program Fact Sheet

Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation

Department of Health and Family Services * Division of Public Health
Bureau of Occupational Health * 1 W. Wilson St. * PO Box 2659
Madison, WI 53701-2659 * (608) 266-7298

Publication Number PPH 036

Youth Run Over by Minivan while Delivering Newspapers

BACKGROUND

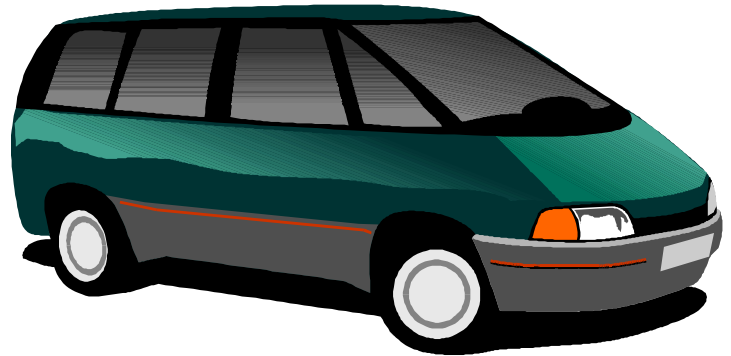
Each year in the United States, approximately 70 adolescents die from injuries at work. Hundreds more are hospitalized, and tens of thousands require treatment in hospital emergency rooms. In 2000, the Wisconsin Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program received 102 reports of occupational fatalities, including 5 cases of workers under age 18.

This fact sheet describes an incident where a youth was killed while delivering newspapers from a minivan. The information and recommendations should be brought to the attention of youth newspaper carriers, their employers, co-workers, families and schools.

THE INCIDENT

A 9-year-old boy died when he fell out of a minivan and was run over while delivering newspapers. He sat in the rear passenger seat while his stepfather drove from one newspaper box to another along the suburban streets. He stepped back into the minivan after placing a paper in a newspaper box, and the driver told him to close the door.

The vehicle began to move forward slowly, when the sliding door next to the victim slid open and he fell out. The rear wheel of the van ran over him before the driver could stop. Emergency services transported the youth to a hospital, where he died the following day.



RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations may prevent injury and death of youth at work:

- **Employers should require all employees who drive or ride in motor vehicles to wear seatbelts and keep all doors closed and locked.**
- **Employers should comply with child labor laws, including obtaining a valid work permit.**
- **Parents and school personnel should learn about youth job assignments, and take steps to remove youths from hazardous work situations.**

Note: A youth work permit had been issued to the out-of-state newspaper company that employed the youth, but it was not valid in Wisconsin, where the youth worked.

The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, in agreement with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) conducts research on occupational fatalities. The Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program focuses on identifying factors that increase the risk of work-related fatal injuries. The Wisconsin FACE Program helps in the development and use of improved safety measures for preventing fatal work injuries.

PLEASE POST

FACE information is produced and distributed to provide current, relevant education on methods to prevent severe work-related injuries.

If you have comments or questions, please call the FACE Project at 608/266-7298, or write:

**FACE Program
WI Department of Health and Family Services
Division of Public Health
P.O. Box 2659
Madison WI 53701-2659**