

COURAGEOUS
Teacher's Toolbox

MySafeWork



Dear Friend,

We are delighted that you and your students have joined the Courageous Movement.

Our dream is to make Canada the world's safest place to work — and it starts with leaders like you.

If, together, we can prevent **one student** from being killed, injured, or harassed at work, then it will all have been worth it.

With gratitude,

Rob Ellis
President
MySafeWork

OUR STORY

At the age of 18, David Ellis was killed in a workplace accident. He was given limited training and no supervision. It was his second day on the job. After David's death, the Ellis family started MySafeWork, a not-for-profit organization and registered charity.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to prevent workers from getting injured and killed at work. Our message is simple: don't work for someone that doesn't respect you. Through education and empowerment, we are committed to creating a social movement against unsafe work.

THANKS FOR REGISTERING!

Courageous is a broadcast created to educate young people about the reality of unsafe work — and empower them to do something about it.

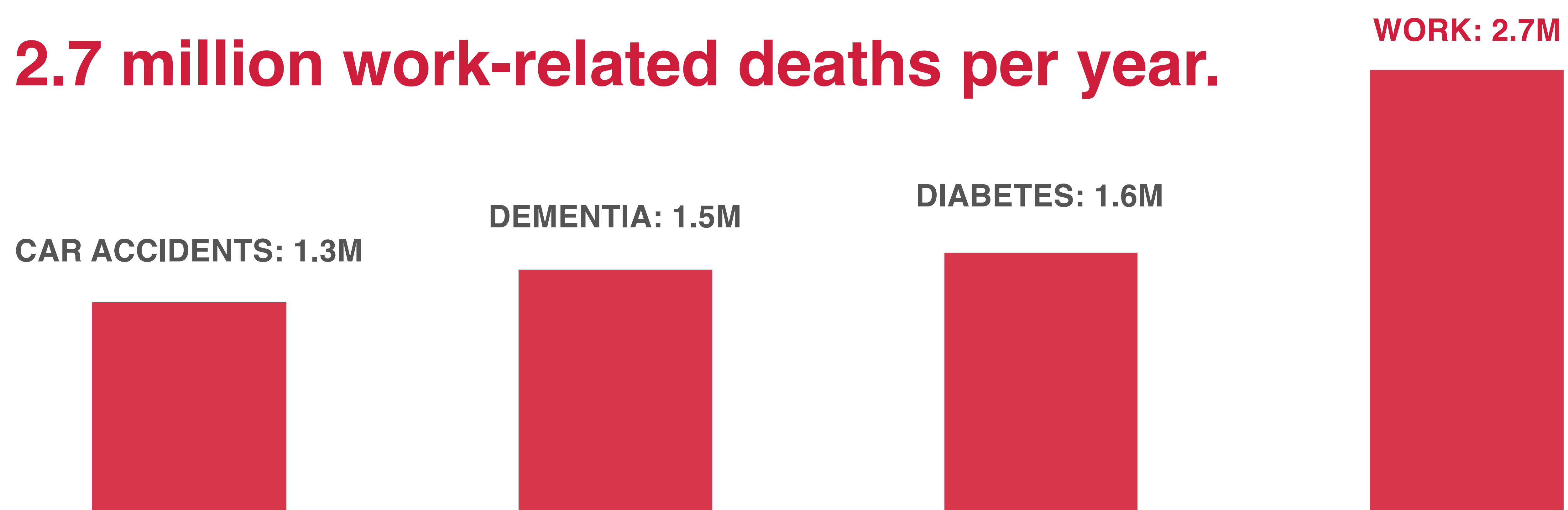
WHAT TO DO:

1. Watch the Courageous live-stream on MySafeWork.com/Courageous. The video will be available on April 27 at 6:00 AM EST, but you can watch anytime that works best for you.
2. Review the scenarios and discussion questions with your students.
3. If your students still have questions, direct them to mysafework.com/help.

Discussion Questions

1. Do you know someone who has been hurt at work? How did the accident affect their life?
2. If you were placed in an unsafe work environment, how would your courage be challenged?
3. Do you think being creepy is a form of harassment? Why or why not?
4. How do we balance being polite and respecting authority with standing up for our workplace rights?
5. You have the right to refuse unsafe work. What does this mean? Why might refusing unsafe work be difficult or awkward?
6. Every 15 seconds, a worker dies from workplace accident or disease. How can we share the message of Courageous with more people?

2.7 million work-related deaths per year.



COURAGEOUS

STAND UP TO UNSAFE WORK

Scenario 1

Sue works at a clothing store in the mall. Almost every day, a certain man comes into the store and compliments her body. It makes Sue feel really uncomfortable. Sometimes, when she sees the man coming, Sue goes into the back room of the store and waits for him to leave.

One day after work, Sue texts her manager and tells him about the situation. Her manager responds, saying: "It's just part of the job. Anyways, he's right about your body 😊."

What should Sue do?

Hint 1 Often, we think of unsafe work as something that affects our physical health. But workplace injuries can also come from **emotional abuse**. Harassment might come off as playful, but it's still **not acceptable** - especially if it makes you uncomfortable.

Hint 2 If you're being harassed, **tell someone!** Tell your boss or supervisor what's happening. If your supervisor is harassing you, **tell your supervisor's boss**. If you're not sure who's in charge, talk to a co-worker you trust, or even your friends or family at home.



Need help at work? mysafework.com/help

COURAGEOUS

STAND UP TO UNSAFE WORK

Scenario 2

Alex is saving up money to go to a concert with his friends. Alex remembers that his Aunt Victoria owns a pool cleaning business. He decides to ask his Aunt Victoria for a part-time job. Aunt Victoria offers to pay Alex \$200 cash for helping her clean pools on Monday and Tuesday. Alex agrees.

When Alex arrives to work on Monday morning, his Aunt says, “Don’t worry, this job is easy.” She then hands him an empty bucket and says, “Start by pouring the chemicals into this bucket.” Alex is wearing shorts and sneakers. He wonders whether he should be wearing gloves or hand protection.

What should Alex do?

Hint 1 Even if your boss tells you that your job is easy and safe, you should always receive Orientation and Training before starting a new job (just remember: “OT”). It doesn’t matter if you’re working for a family member, or if you’re only working for a few hours. **Always demand OT — it’s your right!**

Hint 2 Working for cash “under the table” is against the law. If you’re being paid in cash, your boss might not be paying for your workplace injury insurance. So, **if you get hurt, you get no money and no support.**



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COURAGEOUS

STAND UP TO UNSAFE WORK

Scenario 3

Aubrey started working at a Canadian coffee shop that also serves food. On a really busy day, Aubrey burnt her arm when taking some food out of the oven. It really hurt for a few days, but the pain eventually went away.

One day, Aubrey asks one of her co-workers if he had ever been burnt at work. He laughs and says, “Everyone gets burnt. Look at my arms!” Rolling up his sleeves, he shows her two red marks on his forearms. “You think I’m going to go cry to the boss? I’d get fired on the spot! And, plus, I need the money.” Aubrey is scared of getting burnt again, but she needs the money to help her parents pay the bills.

What should Aubrey do?

Hint 1 You have the right to refuse unsafe work. If you think your job is unsafe, stop doing it and tell your boss. **It’s against the law for your boss to fire you** or punish you for refusing unsafe work. If nothing changes, remember: **your physical safety is worth more than a paycheque**. Don’t work for someone who doesn’t respect you.

Hint 2 Report all injuries and accidents to your boss and tell your family, no matter how minor the injury may seem. Reporting doesn’t make you a “wimp.” **By reporting injuries, corrective action can be taken so that other people don’t get hurt — or even killed.**



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TAKE THE PLEDGE

It starts with you. Make a personal commitment to oppose unsafe work.

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I REFUSE UNSAFE WORK:

When my work makes me feel unsafe, unsure, or worried, I stop doing it and say something. Refusing unsafe work is my right — and it protects me and everyone around me.

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I SPEAK OUT FOR OTHERS:

I speak out when I see someone working in unsafe conditions. I will be vigilant on behalf of my family, co-workers, and employees.

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I REPORT ACCIDENTS:

If I get hurt at work, I will tell my employer — no matter how small or insignificant the injury may seem. By reporting accidents, corrective action can be taken so that other people don't get hurt or killed.

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I ASK FOR ORIENTATION AND TRAINING:

When I start a new job or task, I always ask for orientation and training. I recognize that new workers are much more likely to be injured during the first month than experienced workers.

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I STAND IN SOLIDARITY:

Every year, 2.7 million people die from work-related accidents and diseases. I stand with people working in unsafe conditions around the world. I am committed to bringing this issue to the forefront of public dialogue.

Take the pledge at mysafework.com/pledge

MySafeWork