

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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Job Name _____

Date _____

UNDER THE INFLUENCE AT WORK

A recent federal government survey revealed that the construction industry has some of the highest rates of alcohol and drug abuse. This widespread substance abuse affects everyone on a jobsite and can have disastrous consequences. Drug users in the workplace are 3.6 times more likely to injure themselves or another person in a workplace accident, and 5 times more likely to be injured in an accident off the job. We must all work together to detect, report, and help treat substance abuse to keep our workplace free of drugs and alcohol.

Construction work has enough hazards without the added dangers created by drugs and alcohol in the workplace. Think of the various dangerous tasks you are trained to perform every day. In order to do them safely, you must be sober, clear-headed, and ready to focus your attention on the job. Even if **you** don't use drugs or alcohol, your co-workers' choices can affect everyone around them—including you.

Imagine what could happen if a worker with impaired vision, hearing, and response time were operating a crane, welding, working on a scaffold, giving you hand signals, driving equipment, using hazardous materials, or securing your fall protection equipment. Someone could have an accident, lose a limb, or suffer a fatal injury. Therefore, it's important that you watch for signs of substance abuse and report them to your supervisor. You may feel that you're not being loyal to your co-workers, but really you could be saving someone's life—perhaps your own.

You can also do your part by not using, abusing, or selling drugs. Set an example for workers around you by making safety your priority and arriving at work sober and ready to work. Let those around you know that you expect a safe and drug-free workplace. Keep in mind that many over-the-counter and prescription medications can make you drowsy or sleepy. Taking medications with alcohol can make you even more drowsy, dizzy, and light-headed. Read the labels on all medications to check for drug interactions that could be dangerous.

If you do have substance abuse problems, seek help. Contact a community substance abuse hotline or utilize your employer's employee assistance program. Ask for help from a family member or friend. Your alcohol or drug abuse becomes more than just your problem when you put those around you at risk. Do the right thing and get treatment.

SAFETY REMINDER

**Get enough rest, stay alert,
keep your emotions in check,
and work with a clear head!**

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

S.A.F.E. Cards® planned for this week _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____

These instructions do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations.