SUBSTANCE ABUSE CAN’T BE TOLERATED

As construction workers, you’re probably all aware that there are very few occupations as dangerous as construction work. Whether you work on scaffolding or are involved in excavation operations, you regularly face potential hazards that very few people ever do in other occupations. This is why you must ALWAYS be alert and pay attention as you perform your work. One of the most important ways to accomplish this is to make sure that you do not abuse drugs or alcohol.

You might think people with substance abuse problems don’t work. That’s generally not true. In fact, a majority of substance abusers do work, often at a high cost to employers. For example, according to the Department of Labor, employees who abuse alcohol or drugs tend to miss more days of work and experience lower productivity, sometimes forcing employers to hire and train new employees. For a small business – common in construction – these costs can close a company. Of course, for those of you on the site, you might not feel the effects of an absent co-worker in your wallets, but you will certainly feel it when you have to work twice as hard to get the job done.

Work site safety is another great concern. The DOL notes that excessive alcohol and drug use can cause impairments in vision, hearing, attention span, muscle coordination and alertness. These factors are critical to the safety of a construction site. Unfortunately, people with substance abuse problems head to work each day, putting site safety at risk. In fact, OSHA notes that between 10 and 20 percent of employees who die on the job test positive for alcohol or other drugs, and our industry has one of the highest rates of substance abuse in the United States.

Accidents and injuries on construction sites drive up costs in terms of workers’ compensation claims; however, it’s not just the economic cost of accidents that concerns us. It’s also the emotional cost.

Construction work is what brings us together. But our most important job is to send each of you home to your families every day, safe and injury-free. If you abuse drugs or alcohol, you make that job much more difficult.

Drug and/or alcohol abuse will NOT be tolerated on this project. One moment of distraction can be catastrophic. Drug and alcohol abuse can easily create that moment.

If you feel you have a problem with substance abuse, please see your foreman or supervisor. Your problem will be kept private and confidential as help options are explored. Remember, by getting help, you are not only keeping yourself safe on the job, you are also helping to ensure the safety of your co-workers.

Thanks for your attention and have a safe Day!
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