

## Toolbox Talk # 13

# DRUG ABUSE

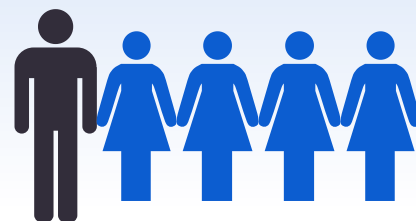


Company Name:	
Job Name:	
Date:	

### Key Points

1. **Drug abuse in the workplace poses serious safety risks**, compromising the well-being of employees and potentially leading to accidents and injuries.
2. **Substance abuse can impair cognitive function**, decision-making, and judgment, reducing productivity and negatively impacting work performance.
3. **Drug abuse contributes to absenteeism**, tardiness, and increased employee turnover, resulting in higher costs for businesses.
4. **The misuse of drugs can create a hostile work environment**, causing conflicts, decreased morale, and reduced teamwork among colleagues.
5. **Employers need to establish clear drug policies**, provide education on the risks of drug abuse, and offer support programs to ensure a safe and healthy workplace for all employees.
6. **On construction sites, drug impairment significantly increases the risk of falls**, equipment mishandling, and structural accidents that can endanger multiple workers.
7. **Construction workers operating heavy machinery** or working at heights while under the influence pose exceptional dangers to themselves and others on the jobsite.

**1 in 5 workers report having used drugs in the past month**



# Top 5 - Impacts of Drug Abuse

1. **Impaired coordination** - Increases falls from heights and scaffold accidents.
2. **Reduced reaction time** - Dangerous when operating heavy machinery or equipment.
3. **Poor judgment** - Leads to ignoring safety protocols and proper procedures.
4. **Decreased awareness** - Fails to notice environmental hazards and warning signs.
5. **Team endangerment** - Puts coworkers at risk during collaborative tasks.



1. Is substance use affecting my safety awareness at work?
2. Could my medication impair my ability to operate equipment?
3. Do I know my company's drug and alcohol policy?
4. Do I know where to seek help for substance issues?

"Drugs at work,  
Danger to all,  
Stay alert,  
Prevent the fall"

## Summary

Drug abuse in construction creates severe hazards through impaired coordination, judgment, and reaction times. Workers under the influence risk deadly accidents when operating heavy equipment or working at heights. This endangers not just themselves but entire crews, while undermining site productivity and safety culture.



### Overview of OSHA and Drug Abuse in the Workplace

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) enforces regulations to ensure workplace safety, including preventing drug and alcohol abuse. Substance abuse, especially in construction, increases accident risks, making employer oversight critical.

### Key Drug Abuse Regulation

While OSHA lacks a specific drug-testing rule, 29 CFR 1926.10-1926.35 requires employers to ensure a safe workplace, including addressing impairment. The Drug-Free Workplace Act (DFWA) mandates substance abuse policies for federal contractors. Many construction employers implement drug testing programs to meet safety and contract requirements.



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ATTENDEES

Print Name:	Signature:

Additional Comments: