



<b>S&amp;W READY MIX CONCRETE COMPANY</b>	PLANT #:
<b>CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL / SAFETY PROGRAM</b>	<b>JULY</b>
<b>WELLNESS &amp; SAFETY - MONTHLY TRAINING TOPIC</b>	

## **ALCOHOL AND DRUGS**

Would you consider putting your life into the hands of a surgeon who was known to be a pill-popping fanatic? Or how about an airline pilot who uses cocaine? What about entrusting your children to a school bus driver who downs a six pack before his afternoon run?

Answering questions about this kind of risk taking is easy, particularly when it involves situations as obvious as these. But have you ever knowingly worked with someone who was under the influence of any drug or alcohol? Have you ever covered up for someone who has these habits? How often have you ignored an unsafe act and said nothing - especially when it involved drugs or alcohol?

This is a difficult topic to deal with because drug and alcohol use is often considered a personal matter. But when substance abuse comes into the workplace, it is no longer a private concern!

If you worked with someone who was endangering lives by not following a safety procedure - wouldn't you bring it up? Failure to correct unsafe practices is a neglect of your safety responsibility and ultimately adds to our accident prevention problem instead of helping us solve it. Most of us wouldn't hesitate to report an impaired driver on the road; yet when it comes to a co-worker or supervisor who is endangering your life, it is so difficult.

If you haven't been exercising your safety responsibility, now is the time to start. If you don't, sooner or later the price will be paid in accidents, injuries or even your own life!

As we all know, substance abuse affects the body and mind's ability to function properly. A worker under the influence of alcohol or drugs is subject to impaired eyesight, coordination and judgment. The time needed to react to the pressures of the job increases significantly. All of these factors could spell disaster!

Workers who are "high" on the job are potential time-bombs. Due to their clouded judgment, they not only put themselves at risk but also others - including you. The sobering fact is that when unsafe acts are performed, and safety rules are ignored, accidents are not only possible but will invariably happen - it's just a matter of time. Add to that the fact that even a slightly impaired worker will often tend to stray from proper safety procedures due to over confidence, carelessness and simple lack of judgment - you have the potential for disaster!

### **What can be done?**

Many employers have chosen to fight against substance abuse in the workplace. They have implemented programs to assist in the treatment of problem employees and some have even instituted drug testing policies.

Don't ignore unsafe acts!

***We all have a right to do away with unsafe acts in our workplace - and that includes those which are a result of drug and alcohol abuse! Anyone working under the influence of drugs or alcohol should be reported immediately. This might be one of the hardest things you ever have to do. But it is far better to find help for this individual now before we end up removing him or another innocent co-worker in an ambulance.***