

Substance Use – Drugs and Alcohol

Operating a crane can be a dangerous job. It requires focus, skill, good judgment, coordination, and the ability to make split-second decisions. Being under the influence of some substances can impair the operator's ability to safely carry out work.

The term "substances" includes:

- Legal drugs such as cannabis
- Street drugs such as cocaine, meth, heroin, and fentanyl
- Alcohol
- Some prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications

Substance use can make changes to the mind and body causing impairment.

When people are impaired:

- their judgment, thinking, and decision making doesn't work as well as usual.
- they may become clumsy, have poor reaction time, and perceive the world in different ways.
- they may become irritable and have mood swings or personality changes.

All workers and employers have a responsibility to keep themselves and everyone else on the worksite safe. Being alert and fit to work safely is required by law.

Worker Responsibilities

- Make sure your ability to work safely is not impaired for any reason.
- If you are impaired, do not work, because your impairment could endanger you or other workers.
- Tell your supervisor or employer if your ability to work safely is impaired for any reason.

- Tell your supervisor or employer if you think someone else might be impaired.

If you think you might have a substance-use problem, talk with a doctor or counsellor. Some companies have an employee and family assistance program that can help.

Employer Responsibilities

- Do not let a person work if their impairment could endanger themselves or anyone else.
- Do not let an impaired worker stay on the worksite.

Suggested Topics for Discussion

- What would you do if you suspected another worker was impaired due to a substance?
- What would you do if you thought you might be impaired yourself (for example, because you were on a new medication)?
- Have you had experience with someone being impaired at work? What happened? Do you think the situation was handled well? Why or why not?

References: OHSR Part 4, Section 4.20 and *Workers Compensation Act* Division 4, Section 22(2)(d)

Project: Address:

Employer: Supervisor:

Date: Time: Shift:

Number in crew: Number attending:

Other safety concerns or suggestions:

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Record of those attending:

Name: (please print)		Signature:	Company:
1.			
2.			
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13.			
14.			
15.			

Manager's remarks:

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Manager: Supervisor:

(Signature)

(Signature)

For more information on health and safety requirements for crane operations in B.C., refer to the *Workers Compensation Act* and the OHS Regulation at worksafebc.com.