

## 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 don'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.

### **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.

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.

### **OHS Regulation reference: section 4.20**

### ***Workers Compensation Act, section 22(2)(d)***

### **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?

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.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		

Manager's remarks: .....

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Manager: .....

(Signature)

Supervisor: .....

(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 on [worksafebc.com](http://worksafebc.com).