

Workplace Safety in a Drug-Free Environment

Illicit Drug use in Northwest Ohio exists at an alarming rate. The surrounding counties presently see use of marijuana, heroin, methamphetamine and an increase in prescription drug abuse.

Daily hundred of workers cross county lines to go to work. They are not leaving their habits/addictions at home. This puts companies and all employees at risk. Substance abuse at the workplace is a health and safety hazard.

Can you recognize the substance abusers that work for you? Many profile them as those with long hair, piercings, and/or tattoos. The truth is substance abusers come from all walks of life.

In our local communities this year, there have been CEO's, firemen, paramedics, doctors, nurses, teenagers and the elderly.

It is unlikely that we can completely stop substance use in our communities or workplaces.

Drug use can be dated back to the Egyptian Pharaohs who have it buried with them to use in the after life. Today people use drugs and alcohol to relax, socialize, and for some to escape the realities of life.

When workers use drugs on a daily basis it puts all those who work with them and the company they work for at risk. The cost to employers include:

- Decreased Productivity
- Increased Absenteeism
- Damage to property/equipment
- Inferior quality work/ products
- Increased employee theft – Did you know 80% of substance abusers steal from their workplace
- Increased health and insurance cost.

The most effective, defensive tool that companies can use to keep their workforce safe against substance abusers is a drug screening program. Drug screening should be done for pre-employment, random, and post accident. This lets your employees know that you are serious about a drug free workplace.

Ohio employer's have a tremendous opportunity right now to start Drug Free Workplace Programs. Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation is offering one of the highest incentive programs available in the nation with 10-20% premium discounts to help companies get started.

Two great websites to get more information to help get a Drug Free Program started are: www.ohiobwc.com and www.dol.gov.

A Cornell University Study states that employers that drug test, experience a 51% reduction in the workplace injury rate within two years of implementing a drug testing program.

A Drug Free Workplace spills out into families and our communities making it a safer place to live and work.

Dana Galvan
ProTox Drug and Alcohol Screening
protox@embargmail.com | 419.446.2147
www.ProTox.us

