

April is Alcohol Awareness Month

And that doesn't mean free beer at work today. According to the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence:

- Up to 40% of industrial fatalities and 47% of industrial injuries can be linked to alcohol consumption and alcoholism.
- 60% of alcohol-related work performance problems can be attributed to employees who are not alcohol dependent, but who occasionally drink too much on a work night or weekday lunch.
- 21% of workers reported being injured or put in danger, or having to cover for a co-worker due to others' drinking.
- Absenteeism among alcoholics or problem drinkers is 8 times greater than normal and up to 16 times greater among employees with alcohol-related problems.
- For every dollar invested in an Employee Assistance Program (EAP), employers generally save from \$5 to \$16. The average annual cost for an EAP ranges from \$12 to \$20 per worker.
- Employees who are pressured into treatment by their employers are slightly more likely to recover from alcoholism than those who are not pressured.
- Alcoholism treatment can yield significant reductions in total health care costs for an alcoholic and his/her family.
- Less than 1/3 of one percent of employed persons are receiving treatment for alcoholism and other drug dependence.
- For more information go to: www.ncadd.org

Now is a good time to talk about the Employee Assistance Program available at your company. If there is none, what local resources are available for alcohol or drug-related problems?

Does your company screen your employees for alcohol and drug use? Federal rules in the United States require alcohol and drug testing for driver drivers, but those rules don't affect other workers in the yard. Think about that. Think about the crane operator lifting tons of material from a customer's vehicle.

If you don't currently screen workers for drug and alcohol use, maybe you should.

Keep everyone at your company working . . .

SAFELY, OR NOT AT ALL.

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