



Drug-Impaired Driving Toolkit for Employers

Dangers of Drug-Impaired Driving Fact Sheet: Impairment

- ❖ Use of any drug including prescription and OTC drugs can make driving a car unsafe—just like driving after drinking alcohol.
- ❖ Illicit drug use, including illegal drugs and the misuse of prescription drugs is a risk for employers.
- ❖ Some prescription drugs can induce drowsiness, cause nausea, affect judgment, and decrease coordination, increasing the risk of crashing under these conditions.
- ❖ Regardless whether drugs/medications are prescribed by a doctor or taken legally including medicine obtained over the counter, it is illegal in every state to drive under the influence of any potentially impairing drug.
- ❖ Research has demonstrated a statistically significant association between Cannabis use and increased risk of motor vehicle crashes.
- ❖ According to the National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI), workers compensation benefits could be restricted if an injury is attributed to intoxication or drug use.



- ❖ The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) found 55% more industrial accidents, 85% more injuries, and 75% greater absenteeism among employees who tested positive for Cannabis compared to those who tested negative.
- ❖ A 2015 study on driving after smoking cannabis stated that THC in marijuana affects a driver's ability to multitask, a critical skill needed behind the wheel.
- ❖ Predicting real-world crash risk due to driving under the influence of drugs is challenging, however, studies show that marijuana impairs psychomotor skills, lane tracking, and cognitive function.
- ❖ Several studies have shown that drivers with THC in their blood were roughly twice as likely to be responsible for a deadly crash or be killed than drivers who had not used drugs or alcohol.
- ❖ Factors, such as job insecurity, job loss, and high demand/low control jobs are often associated with prescription opioid use.