



# Spotlight on... drugs and alcohol

The Considerate Constructors Scheme aims to raise awareness of important issues within the industry amongst registered sites, companies and suppliers, using our '**Spotlight on...**' campaigns.

Through **taking action** to tackle the topics highlighted, everyone can play an important role in **making a difference**, and ultimately improving the image of construction.



Improving the image of construction

# Spotlight on... drugs and alcohol

**Spotlight on... drugs and alcohol** aims to raise awareness of the risks these pose to construction work and the importance of taking proactive measures to protect and safeguard the entire workforce.

For many people, consuming alcohol is a typical part of their lifestyle and may not cause any serious problems. However, the after-effects of excessive alcohol or drug consumption can seriously impact the physical and mental capabilities of individuals and the workforce as a whole.

It is important to understand that drugs and alcohol can affect your psychological and physical state of wellbeing, significantly diminishing your ability to perform at a responsible level.

- 20-30% of workplace accidents can be associated with alcohol in safety-critical industries such as construction.
- 27% of employers say drug misuse is a problem at work, while 60% have experienced problems due to staff drinking alcohol.
- 1/3 of employees admit to being at work with a hangover from the night before, which they accept impacts directly on their own productivity and safety.
- 35% have noticed colleagues under the influence of drugs and alcohol.
- 17 million working days a year are lost in England due to alcohol-related sickness.

## How the issue is being tackled

The issue of drugs and alcohol is addressed as part of the larger topic of the health and wellbeing of the workforce.

Most construction companies have a drug and alcohol policy to appropriately manage and minimise the risks, as well as varying levels of testing in place. Sites offer internal support and advice services, as well as providing details of relevant external resources including consultation and rehabilitation.

Some sites also display literature such as posters and flyers, providing valuable information on the signs, effects and impacts of drugs and alcohol. Toolbox talks are implemented to raise awareness of this issue and outline company policy.

## What to do now?

Please visit the **Spotlight on...** section of the Best Practice Hub [www.ccsbestpractice.org.uk](http://www.ccsbestpractice.org.uk) to find a wealth of advice and useful information, case studies and links to other organisations and bodies which will enable you to find out more about dealing with the issue of drugs and alcohol.

The Hub will update the campaign as new information and case studies are identified.

To share how you are tackling the issue of drugs and alcohol, please email [enquiries@ccsbestpractice.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ccsbestpractice.org.uk)