

Job Name: _____ Job Site Location: _____

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

Topic 211: Drugs and Alcohol Behind the Wheel

Introduction: Alcohol, drugs, and driving do not mix. Any driver, who operates a vehicle while impaired, increases the chance of accidents, injuries, and death. Driving is serious business that requires the ultimate in skill and judgment — both of which are diminished through consumption of alcohol and drugs. These substances seriously reduce a driver's reflexes, physical control over the vehicle, and ability to recognize dangerous situations. These combined physical effects make the impaired driver a dangerous drive. Even when one may not appear or feel under the influence, alcohol and drugs produce a false sense of confidence in driving ability.

There are many conditions that can affect a person's ability to drive even after one drink; for example, body weight, emotional state or physical condition. The best rule to follow is still: ***If you are drinking or using controlled substances, do not drive.***

Along with your driver's license comes the obligation to drive responsibly. It is unlawful for any person who is under the influence of intoxicating liquor, any drugs, or toxic vapors to drive or be in actual physical control of any vehicle.

If a law enforcement officer administers an alcohol concentration (AC) test for driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor and it shows an alcohol concentration of 0.08 percent or more (0.04 in a commercial vehicle requiring a commercial driver license), the person's driving privileges will be suspended and withdrawn immediately. If one refuses to submit to or does not successfully complete any tests when they are arrested for driving under the influence, they will automatically lose their driving privileges. In some states, a person under 21 years of age is considered to be under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs if there is any alcohol concentration.

- **Suspension** — is the temporary removal of your driving privilege. It is an action that may be taken after a review of your driving record. The suspension remains in effect until application for reinstatement is made and approved. In addition to the reinstatement fee, you must pay the appropriate license application fee for your age group.
- **Revocation** — is the removal of your privilege to drive. It is required by law, upon conviction of certain driving offenses. Once your revocation period has ended, your driving privileges will remain revoked until an investigation is completed. The investigation is to determine that all withdrawal actions have ended, and that all statutory requirements are met. You will be required to pay the appropriate application fee and a reinstatement fee, and you may be required to file a Certificate of Insurance. A written, vision, and road test may also be required.

Driving Under the Influence (DUI) convictions include the following penalties:

- **DUI** — You may be jailed, subjected to fines, and your license will be suspended. You will also be required to undergo alcohol screening / education / treatment and may be ordered to perform community service.
- **Extreme DUI** — is the category of DUI applied to a person with an alcohol concentration of 0.15 or higher. You may be jailed, lose driving privileges with no eligibility for probation or suspended sentence, and subject to fines. You may be required to undergo screening / education / treatment and may be ordered to perform community service and equip any vehicle operated with a certified ignition interlock device.
- **Aggravated DUI** — You will probably be sent to prison. In addition to any other penalty required by law, your license will be revoked for a substantial length of time.
- **Driver Improvement** — refers to the process of identifying those who are not driving responsibly and either correcting their behavior or removing their privilege to drive. Persons who have been convicted of offenses which show disrespect for traffic laws, and a disregard for the safety of others are subject to sanctions. Each time a person is convicted or forfeits bail for a moving traffic violation, points are assessed against their permanent driving record. If too many points are accumulated within any 12-month period, one may be required to attend **Traffic Survival School**, or driving privilege may be suspended.
- **A certified ignition interlock device** — is a breath alcohol testing instrument connected to the ignition and power system of the vehicle. The driver blows into the device before attempting to turn the ignition. If the driver's alcohol level is above a certain level, the vehicle will not start. While the vehicle is operating, the driver must blow into the device at random intervals.

Conclusion: It is readily apparent that DUI convictions can greatly complicate a person's life. Along with the court imposed fees, fines, and increased insurance rates, it can also impede one's ability to earn a living by not being able to drive. Remember to use good sense and judgment when operating motor vehicles and ***if you are drinking or using controlled substances, do not drive!***

Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: _____

Personnel Safety Violations: _____

Employee Signatures:

(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)

These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.