

PestSure Safety

INSURING THE FUTURE OF PEST CONTROL

Tips

A five-minute training Series for Pest Management Professionals.

Alcohol on the Job

Working under the influence of alcohol is strictly prohibited in our industry. This means more than just not drinking on the job. Alcohol can have an effect on your body up to 18 hours after you have stopped drinking. Alcohol use is a legitimate on-the-job safety issue, not an attempt to control off-the-clock lifestyles. Arriving to work fit for duty is our obligation to our employer.

Alcohol is a sedative. Drinking alcohol impairs a person's judgment, ability to concentrate, and coordination. Some people can tolerate the effects of alcohol better than others but the consumption of alcohol will have some degree of effect on everyone. Factors that influence your body's ability to metabolize alcohol include your weight, medications, medical condition, and food intake.

What should you do about a co-worker who is drinking on the job? Should you ignore the situation or report it? Many of us might ignore the situation because we don't want to cause problems for other people. A person who uses alcohol on the job is less productive and has a much greater chance of being injured in a work accident. While none of us want to see a person lose their job, it is important to protect the drinker, his family, yourself, and your fellow co-workers from the increased hazards this person represents.

Take control and don't allow the situation to continue. Whether you or a co-worker is struggling with controlling alcohol use, consider these steps.



- Talk to your supervisor. It is your responsibility to talk to your supervisor whenever any performance or safety issue affects your job. A drinking worker could be just as dangerous as a defective ladder. You wouldn't hesitate to bring the ladder issue to your supervisor's attention.
- If you are uncomfortable, suggest to your supervisor that there may be a problem. A good supervisor will take the initiative and pick up the task from there.
- Whatever you do, make sure you do something. Watch out for your co-worker as they may need help. Above all, protect yourself from errors that could occur while working with this individual.

You don't have to be drunk to have some impairment of ability. If you or someone you work with can't make it through the workday without a drink, there may be a need for professional help. In addition, if a co-worker regularly reports for duty suffering the effects from the night before, someone needs to intervene. In the meantime, don't let someone who is impaired by alcohol reduce your level of safety on the job.