



# SAFETY TAILGATE MEETING

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## WORKING WHILE IMPAIRED

### INTRODUCTION

Of primary importance to our company is that we keep you safe while at work. When we talk about safety, we often discuss preventing falls, good housekeeping, using tools safely, and driving safely. However, we cannot have a safe workplace without discussing this topic of "Workplace Impairment". Physical or mental impairment while working can create a significant risk of injury and death to the impaired worker, co-workers, and members of the public. In this meeting, we will discuss:

- (1) What it means to be impaired at work**
- (2) Ways a person can be impaired at work**
- (3) What to do if there is the potential of impairment**

### WHAT IT MEANS TO BE IMPAIRED

What does it mean to be impaired? When it comes to work, being impaired means being mentally or physically unable to perform your work functions safely due to anything that can impair your judgement or performance.

**Here is an example:** A worker operating a forklift was trying to place a load of material on the roof of a building. After he placed the load and started to back the forks out of the pallet, the forks pulled the pallet off the roof and it came crashing to the ground.

**Question: Why do you think this occurred?** (Note: He was a trained operator with more than 10 years' experience)

The investigation showed that he only got a couple hours of sleep the night before, and very little sleep in the previous week. This was no fault of his own - he had a newborn baby! The operator admitted he was "tired and not really focused" while operating.

Fatigue is just one example of something that can cause impairment at work.

**Question: What other things can you think of?** (Allow the workers time to discuss)

## WAYS A PERSON CAN BE IMPAIRED AT WORK

### Substance related impairment:

- Alcohol (Note: The blood alcohol content limit for work is zero)
- Illegal drugs (Note: Being under the influence of cannabis at work is not allowed)
- Prescription drugs
- Over the counter medications

Impairment from substance use can cause physical and behavioral changes that affect a person's ability to think clearly and work safely. This can put you or a co-worker at risk. Such changes include:

- Impaired judgement, thinking and decision-making
- Decreased motor coordination and reaction time
- Mood swings and personality changes

Therefore, our company policy is that alcohol, cannabis, and illegal drugs are at no time permitted in the workplace. In addition, you may not be under the influence of these things in the workplace. This includes while driving as part of your work.

### Other things that can cause impairment include:

- Fatigue
- Stress

## WHAT TO DO IF THERE IS THE POTENTIAL OF IMPAIRMENT

We do not want you to work if you are impaired!

- Inform your supervisor if your ability to safely perform assigned work is impaired for any reason
- Inform your supervisor if you have a concern about a co-worker ability to perform assigned work safely.
- Remember, being impaired isn't always about you doing something wrong, such as needing prescription medication for an illness. However, it is your responsibility to report it if it can affect your ability to work safely.

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**Attendees Names**

Nicholas Newmark

Jacob Freitas

**Attendees Signatures**

N/A

N/A

**CONDUCTOR SIGNATURE**

