



SAFETY NOTICE



Safety Notice Number: **0000002**

Issued **October 5th, 2021** by the Safety Branch, Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration

Substance Use and the Workplace: Supporting Employer and Employees in the Trades

Legal information

Issued pursuant to section 13(1) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Summary

Canada continues to face an opioid overdose crisis that has devastated lives and communities across the country. While the overdose crisis is impacting Canadians from all walks of life, evidence suggests that people working in the trades, construction, transport, and other physically demanding jobs are disproportionately affected. There is also a significantly higher rate of opioid-related deaths among men than women.

To help raise awareness and reduce the harms of substance use, Health Canada and the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA) have partnered to produce a toolkit of resources called [Substance Use and the Workplace: Supporting Employers and Employees in the Trades](#).

The resources in this toolkit include posters, videos, podcasts, and other products on the following topics:

Education and Prevention

Ready-made information on opioids, alcohol, and cannabis; on reducing the stigma associated with substance use and asking for help; and on managing pain.

Addressing Substance Use

Employer specific resources for policies, accommodation, standards, and peer support options.

Employee Resources

Ready-to-use resources for seeking help, finding treatment, virtual care options for working remotely and explaining the impact of different substances.

As we continue working to address the overdose crisis in Canada, it is essential that we use a public health-focused approach and that all employees, including people who use drugs, are treated with respect, compassion and have access to health and social services. We encourage you to help raise awareness of this issue and of the supports and services available through your businesses and organizations. Taking action can help improve employee health and well-being and support a safe and productive work environment.

Contact for bulletin queries

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