

## Single Strike Rule for Methamphetamine

Through long hard experience with safety issues and accidents on Drilling Rigs & pulling units, I have come to the opinion that there should be a change in company policy concerning Drugs & Alcohol. A positive test for Methamphetamine coming from any employee should trigger an automatic banning that employee from the workplace – **permanently**.

### **Reasoning**

- The majority of our accidents come or are influenced by Methamphetamines.
- Methamphetamines are difficult to detect in urinalysis unless the employee is currently using. Even one day past using the Meth and Urinalysis may not be able to detect it. There are many ways to beat a urinalysis test. Meth is the easiest of those to mask.
- The long term effects of Meth use are even more difficult to detect but are far reaching.
  - Mental function is decreased and the body becomes fragile.
  - Decision making is definitely affected in a negative way.
- The older the user is the more negative the affect. Example: An employee who begins using Meth at 50 years of age has an 80% & upward chance of heart failure (Abdominal Aneurysm) over the next few years. The risk even increases for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. A heart attack in the workplace is classified as Workplace illness and is covered by Workers Compensation Insurance. This means that for a drug addicts poor decisions, your company will have to suffer higher insurance costs for 3 years.
- Rehabilitation for Meth addicts is 8-12% (revised 10-18-07) making it the least likely of any drug to be able to rehabilitate any user.

### **Policy Issues**

Historically we have followed US DOT policy because that was the only guideline available. However the Drilling Industry and/or the pulling unit industry are not places to take chances with Meth users since the opportunities for injury could be greater than with most other industries. The risks of Meth outweigh the lack of availability of employees.

Establishing this kind of policy would balance this equation. An additional policy change I would add would be DNA hair follicle testing for suspected Meth users. These tests will look back 90 days into their history.

All other D&A policy issues could remain intact.

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