Costs of Drugs on the Job Fatality Report



An explosion which killed a plumber may have been the result of using drugs at work.

He had arrived at work with an apparent hangover. Co-workers had not seen him very much that day because he had reportedly spent most of the shift in an enclosed van.

An explosion in the van caused second and third degree burns to 90 per cent of his body. An oxy-acetylene torch with an open valve, an oxy-acetylene tank with an open regulator and an open tank of gasoline were found in the van. It is assumed the torch set off an explosion of gasoline vapors. A syringe with traces of cocaine and blood matching the victim were also found. Fellow workers told investigators the victim had exhibited unusual behavior for the last six months and had been hiding cocaine in the van.

Drug use at work can be fatal, affecting your skills and judgment. If fellow workers are showing signs of drug abuse, it’s your responsibility to report it before someone gets hurt. The hazards of drug abuse and what to do about it should be part of a regular safety training program. When flammable liquids or gases are transported, they must be in approved and appropriately ventilated containers.