



American Drug Testing

Drug-Free Workplace Programs

Volume 1

Issue 7

(843) 747-4111

DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE ADVISOR

AN ONGOING SERIES TO PROTECT YOUR COMPANY BY HELPING TO KEEP DRUGS OUT OF YOUR WORKPLACE.

Alcohol Recovery Resources:

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

Phone: (212) 870-3400

www.aa.org

AA offers a way to stop drinking to individuals who



feel they have a problem with alcohol. AA groups are located in most cities and rural

communities throughout the country. Look up "Alcoholics Anonymous" in a local telephone directory for a contact in your area.

American Council on Alcoholism

Phone: (800) 527-5344

www.aca-usa.org

This service provides referrals to alcoholism treatment programs nationwide and distributes written materials on alcohol abuse problems.

The Drug-Free Workplace Advisor

is a resource of American Drug Testing, the Lowcountry's premier drug-free workplace administrator, and testing company. Let us help you maintain a drug-free workplace. Contact us at (843)747-4111.



Robert B. Dodenhoff
President

Driving While Drugged

Ohio Highway Patrol Trooper Leonard Gray had stopped to direct traffic around a jackknifed truck when a car, traveling about 50 mph, hit him. Gray, 53, was flipped into the air, his head crashed into the car's windshield and he landed -- unconscious, with his legs broken and head bloodied -- on the pavement.

The driver who hit Gray, 61-year-old Ronald Hamrick, had been convicted of drug possession previously and had cocaine in his system when he was tested seven hours after the accident, Hocking County assistant prosecutor David Sams says. If Hamrick had been drinking alcohol and had registered a blood-alcohol level of 0.08 percent, the case against him would have been open and shut, Sams says: aggravated vehicular assault, with drunken driving as a factor in the charge.

But Ohio, like most states, has no legal standard for determining what level of drugs in a person's system makes him too impaired to drive. The lack of such a

guideline often makes it difficult for prosecutors to prove cases of "drugged driving."

In Gray's case, Sams spent several months reconstructing



the crash and getting analyses from drug specialists to try to show that Hamrick had been impaired by cocaine. Eventually, it worked: Hamrick pleaded guilty to aggravated vehicular assault in September and will be sentenced for up to five years in prison.

(Hamrick) had enough cocaine in his system that he shouldn't be driving."

More than 1.5 million people were arrested in the USA last year for driving drunk. Police departments and public health specialists estimate that at

least as many people drive under the influence of drugs each year -- and rarely are prosecuted for it.

Now, in an effort that is similar to the movement that began inspiring anti-drunken-driving laws a quarter-century ago, a growing number of government and law enforcement officials are pressing for laws that target drugged driving.

Congress, encouraged by White House anti-drug czar John Walters, is considering proposals that would use the lure of federal transportation money to push states to adopt: "zero-tolerance" laws that would make it a crime for anyone to drive with any amount of illicit drugs in their system.

Only 11 states -- Arizona, Georgia, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah and Wisconsin -- have such laws now.

Source: Gannett News

Meth Moves from Parties to the Workplace

Methamphetamine, once known as a party drug, is steadily making its way into the workplace. A growing number of overworked and stressed employees are using the drug to increase concentration and stamina, the [Los Angeles Times](#) recently reported.

The drug's low cost, about \$100 a month, makes it affordable for many workers. However, the

accidents, absenteeism, and health costs associated with meth are becoming costly for businesses.

Preliminary findings of research examining the eco-



nomie impact of meth use in Benton County, Ark., finds that meth use cost employers \$21 million last year, or \$42,000 per affected worker. According to researchers, meth is most common on construction sites and in manufacturing plants, where workers must stay alert during long hours of repetitive work.