



Construction Industry Round Table

CIRT News

A force for positive change in the design / construction industry

4/09/12 – CIRT Joins in “Soft-Launch” of Drug Free Workplace Initiative

As a direct consequence of the CIRT Board of Directors decision last April, the Round Table has participated in the “**Construction Coalition for a Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace**” — a group of construction industry organizations that joined together in order to address the fatalities and injuries caused by substance abuse on our jobsites. While there are numerous state and local laws regulating substance abuse testing, there is no universal requirement that companies have a substance abuse policy — as such, it presented an opportunity for the industry associations to step forward and take a leadership role to develop a policy statement (recounting “best practices”) that our members and the entire construction industry could agree on, and that the owner/user community could endorse. To that end, a team worked for nearly a year — which included direct and substantive input from CIRT and its members — to hash-out the details.

The Coalition is calling on industry firms to “**TAKE the PLEDGE**” that in sum supports a zero-tolerance policy that aims to eliminate substance abuse-related accidents on jobsites and provide appropriate courses of action—including rehabilitative processes—for employers. The official website for the Construction Coalition for a Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace is www.drugfreeconstruction.org. It will take you less than minute to sign up, but your commitment to a drug and alcohol free workplace could make a lifetime of difference in protecting your employees on the jobsite.

CIRT is part of a “soft launch” to the pledge effort (meaning, our member firms are getting an early opportunity/look at the program) before a general multi-media “hard launch” takes place, which is scheduled for the second week in May during the North American Occupational Safety and Health Week. The new web site ([listed above](#)) will be the center piece of not only the pledge but also educational materials, informational aids, and best practice sharing.

Round Table members are encouraged to go to the [site](#) and consider being among the industry leaders in promoting a substance abuse free jobsite.