

# MOBILE NEWS

FALL 2001



An Occupational Health Newsletter for the Construction Industry

## "Internet Access To Worker Eligibility"



- Respiratory Clearance
- Biological Monitoring
- Training Certifications
- Substance Abuse Testing



MOBILE MEDICAL CORPORATION



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### ELIGIBILITY SEARCH

Contractor Name: XYZ Construction  
Job/Program name: Website Eligibility Demo  
Requested By: Website Demonstration  
Date: 9/27/2001

Employee Information:  
SS#: 444444444  
Name: Jenny Bobcat  
Craft: Carpenter  
Contractor: XYZ Construction  
Union Status: NA

#### Test/Eligibility Information:

Date	Reason	Result Type	Result	Expires
<b>Drug Test 10 Panel</b>				
1/8/2001	Annual	DT Result	Negative	01/08/02

<b>Lead Profile</b>				
2/12/2001	Entrance/PE	Zinc Result	Normal	02/12/02
3/19/2001	Interim	Zinc Result	Normal	03/19/02
5/21/2001	Exit	Zinc Result	Normal	05/21/02
2/12/2001	Entrance/PE	Lead Result	Normal	02/12/02
3/19/2001	Interim	Lead Result	Normal	03/19/02
5/21/2001	Exit	Lead Result	Normal	05/21/02

<b>OSHA 10 Hour Training</b>				
6/27/2001	Annual	Training Result	Pass	6/27/02

<b>PFT and FIT Test</b>				
2/13/2001	Annual	Size / Make / Model	M/3M/6000	02/13/02
2/13/2001	Annual	Respirator Test Results	Pass	02/13/02

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Mobile Medical Corporation is using the internet as a vehicle to provide customers with improved eligibility and compliance documentation. Today, over 200 contractors use our web-site, as a tool, to verify that their new hires have a current drug test.

Our latest technology expansion includes uploading training certifications, respiratory protection and biological monitoring to our web-site. This is a powerful tool for labor management organizations and large contractors to improve their health and safety programs. Centralizing information on the internet gives organizations the ability to share information thus eliminating repetitive testing, reducing costs and standardizing procedures.

MMC's web-site verification system is easy to use. To obtain instructions to demo the system go to: [www.mobmed.com](http://www.mobmed.com) and click on - "View Demo." The instructions will provide you with the necessary codes to obtain access to the eligibility search. A listing of fictitious names and social security numbers are provided. By highlighting a name you can then view this person's testing information. If there is no information on a worker the report will read "No Matches Found."

MMC recognizes that technology is the driving force that will keep today's constructor on the leading edge. If you would like more information or have questions regarding this service please contact MMC Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh  
412.835.8358

Cleveland  
440.895.8358

[www.mobmed.com](http://www.mobmed.com)



## LABOR MANAGEMENT COOPERATION

### Tri-State Construction Users Council

*Tri-State Construction Users Council* is a facility owners association that meet to discuss problems common to construction employers. The Master Builders Association and the Pittsburgh Union Construction Trades presented their new labor management cooperative substance abuse program at the first quarter meeting.

Bob McCall, Paul Quarantillo, Bernie Fedak, and Cindy Latsko introduced the "MBA and Union Construction Drug Free Partnership" program. They discussed the program's requirements, administration, and the benefits to facility owners who integrate this program with existing contractor substance abuse testing requirements.



Bob McCall -  
Master Builders  
Association

Bernie Fedak -  
Tri-State Construction  
Users Council



Paul Quarantillo -  
Western PA  
Laborers' District Council

Each presenter spoke of their organization's role in this cooperative program and how it has created an eligible pool of over 10,000 prequalified Drug Free workers from multiple building trades.

Also addressing the group was Chuck Schaum, V.P. of Purchasing for AK Steel and Tom Stittmatter, Station Project Director for Reliant Energy. They shared how their companies utilized the program and the economic impact it's had at their facilities. The program concluded with

Chris Masciantonia, Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry's, Deputy Secretary of Labor Management, who addressed the group regarding the advantages of this type of labor management cooperative initiative.

Several key facilities were represented at the meeting including: Orion Power, U.S. Steel, University of Pittsburgh, Mechanical Contractors Association, Kvaerner-Songer Corporation, and Allegheny Energy.



### The Union Construction Industry Partnership

#### Northeast Ohio Building Trades

The Union Construction Industry Partnership (UCIP) organization is a cooperative partnership between union building / construction trades and management to enhance employment opportunities in Northeast Ohio. UCIP's alliance of 15,000 skilled construction workers and 1,000 contractors are committed to sharing their message that union contractors employing union craftsmen consistently deliver a superior product.

The goals of the program are:

1. To promote union construction
2. A commitment to a drug free workplace
3. Equal employment opportunity
4. Continued worker training

Bob Verhoff - Executive Director of UCIP, along with sixteen individuals representing both labor and management took the "commitment to a drug free workplace" very seriously. This goal became a two year work in progress to develop policies and procedures for their substance abuse program titled "The Construction Industry Substance Abuse Program."

The program was established to maintain a drug free, alcohol free, safe, healthy work environment. It kicked off February 3, with Cleveland's Laborers' Local Union No. 310. Local 310 is an affiliate of the Laborers' International Union of North America. John Kilbane, Secretary/Treasurer and Apprenticeship Coordinator for Local 310 stated the following regarding the new building trades program, "This is just another example of the rapid change occurring in our industry. We must be able to meet our customer's requirements by providing a "drug free" workforce as well as

provide help to those members, in our union, who may need it. Local 310, is proud to be the first to participate and hopefully sets the pace for others to follow. We know we have the ability and strength to make a difference so let us move forward with confidence to do so."



L-R: Cindy Latsko - MMC, John Kilbane -  
Secretary/Treasurer LU 310, and  
Frank Guarnera, Union Steward LU 310.

The Construction Industry Substance Abuse Program is gaining acceptance throughout the region with several building trades groups negotiating the program into their contracts. To date Ford Motor Company, LTV Steel, and First Energy facilities accept the program card as a valid pre-employment test.

## PREMIER PROJECT



### U.S. Steel Contractor Substance Abuse Program

The U.S. Steel Group, a manufacturer of steel mill products including coke and taconite pellets, contracted with Mobile Medical Corporation to administer their contractor substance abuse program during outage and maintenance projects.

MMC was on-site throughout the 23 week outage at their Mon Valley Works, Edgar Thomson Plant. The outage project employed up to 900 workers from several building trades and fifty or more contractors. Mobile Medical Corporation's on-site staff provided:

- \* Contractor Training
- \* Pre-employment Testing
- \* Random Program Administration / Testing

U.S. Steel recognized both the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the Master Builders Association Drug Free Cards as a valid pre-employment test during the outage.

## REGULATORY UPDATE



### Dilution Rate on the Rise

Adulteration has long been a concern in urine drug testing programs, but has received increasing attention as the use of urine testing as a screening tool in the workplace has become routine. Just as the number of tests performed has increased, the number of products and information available to help individuals "beat the test" has increased as well.

#### Dilute Specimens



*Diluting a specimen* is one way many choose to mask the true test result. Dilution refers to the process of providing a sample for testing in which the concentration of drugs are below applicable cut-off levels. This can be accomplished by externally adding fluid to a sample or by a process known as "internal dilution", in which consumption of copious amounts of fluids can result in a physiologically-produced dilute urine specimen. Controlling the environment at the collection site by limiting access to running water and placing bluing agents in the toilet bowl has effectively minimized dilution by external means. However, internal dilution has been and remains the most prevalent method of affecting urine drug testing results. This subgroup was five times more likely to contain drug metabolites of cocaine and THC than the specimens with normal levels.

Any non-regulated group that drug tests need be aware of this "gray area" in testing. Dilution may or may not be covert. If an employee works in a labor environment and drinks many

liquids throughout the day, he may inadvertently dilute his specimen, the same is true for a health conscience individual who drinks 8-10 eight ounce glasses of water daily. While Federal Guidelines limit actions that may be taken on dilute specimens, every company should clearly define guidelines for specimen integrity and actions taken as a result in their drug retesting policy to ensure consistency.

## INDUSTRY LINKS

### MMC - CLEVELAND -



On January 1, Mobile Medical Corporation opened a branch office in Rocky River, Ohio, which is located minutes west of downtown Cleveland. The new facility will provide on-site industrial medical services including:

- \* Physical Examinations & Testing
- \* Nursing Services
- \* Substance Abuse Programs
- \* Labor Management Cooperative Programs
- \* Nationwide Testing Programs

Marianne Karg, is the Managing Director of the Midwest region. She was employed by MMC for three years, in Pittsburgh, where she was the Marketing Director. During this time she worked heavily with the Labor Management Cooperative Program introduced by I.B.E.W Local's 5 and 712. Now in Cleveland, Marianne is working as the Program Coordinator for the UCIP program and is the third party administrator for the Ford Duratec Project located in Brookpark, Ohio. For more information contact:

**Marianne Karg**  
Mobile Medical Corporation  
20800 Center Ridge Road, Suite 107  
Rocky River, OH 44116  
Phone: (440) 895-8358  
mkarg@mobmed.com



Cynthia Latsko attended the Associated General Contractors of America convention, this March in Nashville, Tennessee. This years convention presented a Professional Development Tracks session including specialized courses in Project Management, Executive Management, Financial Management, Environment and Information Technology.

Cynthia is a member of the AGC's "Electronic Information Management" committee which focuses on ways to implement and communicate internet tools available to the construction industry.



The Society for Protective Coatings is an international association for users and suppliers of industrial protective coatings, related products and services. The Industrial Protective Coatings Conference was held at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, where MMC's President Cynthia Latsko was a session chairperson for the Health and Safety segment of the conference. This esteemed conference provides members with information on new and innovative technologies exclusively for the protective coatings industry and a 300-plus booth exhibit that includes indoor / outdoor displays of large equipment.

The 2001 conference will be held in Atlanta, Georgia. Ms. Latsko will be instructing a workshop titled "Using the Internet in the Industrial Painting Industry." It will introduce contractors to products and services available on-line, as well as help them determine which tools would be most useful for their organizations. For more information on this years conference visit [www.sspc.org](http://www.sspc.org).



L - R: Dave Cottrell of Eagle Industries, New Orleans, LA, Greg Campbell of George Campbell Corporation, Flushing, NY, Marianne Karg of MMC, Cleveland, OH, Mark Dromgool of KTA-TATOR Australia, and Glenn Vivieros of George Campbell Corporation, Flushing, NY.

**MASTER BUILDER ASSOCIATION &  
UNION CONSTRUCTION TRADES  
DRUG FREE PARTNERSHIP**

**Celebrate First Year With Governor's Award!**



Accepting the award (L-R) **Jack Rammage**, *Master Builders Association*, **Paul Quarantillo**, *Laborers' District Council*, **Samuel McCollough**, *PA Secretary of Community & Economic Development*, **Dave Hoehman**, *Carpenters Regional Council*, **Johnny Butler**, *PA Secretary of Labor & Industry*, **Cynthia Latsko**, *Mobile Medical Corporation*, **Jed Deklewa**, *Deklewa Construction*, **Bob McCall**, *Master Builders Association*.

The MBA and Union Construction Trades Drug Free Partnership celebrate the first anniversary of their substance abuse program with recognition from Pennsylvania Governor - Tom Ridge. On September 5th, at an awards luncheon held during the Statewide Labor-Management Conference at the Omni William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh, the Drug Free Partnership was recognized and presented with the Governor's Award for Labor-Management Cooperation.

The MBA program was selected for their outstanding efforts in construction safety. After months of preparation, negotiations, and training they produced a large multiple craft labor and management initiative. This initiative included bricklayers, carpenters, cement masons, drywall finishers, ironworkers, laborers, operating engineers, plasterers and one hundred member contractor associations in thirteen southwestern Pennsylvania counties. The program was established to prevent the use and/or abuse of drugs and alcohol in the workplace, to standardize compliance requirements, reduce cost, and eliminate the burden of administration for substance abuse testing in job specifications. It also has provisions for treatment/rehabilitation to those in need.

The program is a huge success with over **8,000 members** thus far. Labor played a significant role by promoting the program to their membership, helping to get them tested, and offering their union halls as locations to host group testing. All of the parties worked together to promote the program to customers and enhance the building trades image throughout the industry. The program has even generated interest from non-MBA trades and contractor associations who are interested in joining to make it a total building trades initiative. **Congratulations on a Job Well Done!**