

# Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP) Drug/Alcohol Awareness Training

NEFOP, ASM, IFS

*Presented during initial trainings  
Information and photos provided by  
the United States Coast Guard*



# OBJECTIVES

- Identify some types of drugs potentially used on vessels
- Identify some drug paraphernalia
  - Marijuana
  - Cocaine/Crack Cocaine
  - Methamphetamines
  - Heroin
- Identify potential physical and behavioral symptoms of drug and alcohol use
- Understand how to stay safe
- Understand protocols for reporting



# METHAMPHETAMINE



Dilated pupils  
Eye twitching  
Repetitious behavior  
Hyperactivity  
Infections or abscesses  
Burns on lips and around mouth  
“Meth sores” - open sores from obsessive  
scratching and picking  
“Meth Mouth” - rotting teeth  
Potentially will take every 4 hrs



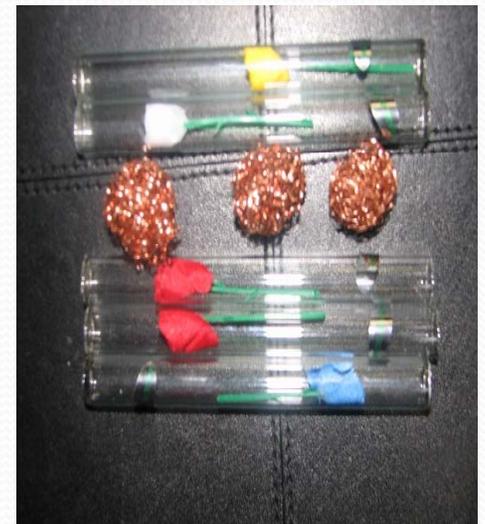
# HEROIN

- Shortness of breath
- Constricted (small) pupils
- Sudden changes in behavior or actions
- Disorientation
- Cycles of hyper alertness followed by sudden nodding off
- Droopy appearance, as if extremities are heavy
- Avoiding eye contact, or distant field of vision
- Slurred, garbled, or incoherent speech



# COCAINE/CRACK COCAINE

- Smoked
    - Glass Pipes
    - Soda Cans
    - Foil
    - Steel Wool or Medal Screens
  - Snorted
    - Rolled up money
    - Pen shafts (ink removed)
    - Straws
- Dilated pupils  
Runny nose  
White residue around nostrils  
Anxious  
High levels of energy and activity  
Excited, exuberant speech  
Potentially will take every 1 hr





# Alcohol

- Signs and symptoms' of someone potentially intoxicated
  - Lower inhibitions
  - Loss of fine motor coordination
  - Weakened balance
  - Slower reaction times
  - Glossy appearance to eyes
  - Blurry vision
  - Heavy sweating
  - Mental confusion
  - Slower pupil response
  - Slower heart rate, breathing, blood pressure
  - **Inability to operate a vessel safely**

# Recognizing unusual behavior on vessels – potential examples

- Going into fish hold/engine room too often, unnecessarily
- Spending abnormal amount of time in the head (some drugs may take 10-15 minutes to take)
- Compulsive behavior- excessive checking of lines
- Person does not eat for an extended amount of time, maybe 2 days
- Being on back deck at night, for no apparent reason
- Meeting up with another boat while offshore
- **Many unusual behaviors could also be normal and the result of a hard working crew and captain!**



# HOW TO STAY SAFE

- Prepare – try to see all crew, make eye contact, meet crew before leaving port – active information gathering
- Know the potential signs and symptoms of drugs
- Recognize potential drug influenced behaviors
- Making appropriate decisions to not escalate conflict, if someone is on drugs
- Don't take drugs, the NEFOP Standards of Conduct state that observers “Must not engage in any use or distribution of illegal substances.”
- Use your gut feeling, along with common sense
- Remember – a crew member on drugs doesn't necessarily make it unsafe on the vessel, depends on the situation
- **Some unusual behavior may be common on vessels and not associated with drug use – very tired crew due to working hard and limited amount of sleep, no time to eat, hyper active due to consuming energy drinks, moody behavior due to lack of catch....**



# When to Report Drug/Alcohol use?

- Standards for under the influence of alcohol or a dangerous drug – Code of Federal Regulations, 33 CFR 95
  - Drug and Alcohol abuse aboard commercial fishing vessels is prohibited.
  - No vessel may be operated by an intoxicated individual (defined as any crewmember, pilot or watchstander on any commercial vessel).
  - The individual operating a commercial vessel is considered intoxicated if he/she has a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) level of .04 **or** the effect of the intoxicant(s) consumed by the individual on the person's manner, disposition, speech, muscular movement, general appearance or behavior is apparent by observation.

# Reporting Protocols

- Report operator abuse of alcohol or drugs
- Report if you felt unsafe during your trip
- Online Incident Report – selecting ‘unsafe vessel conditions’ (Incident Report and instructions are located at <http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/fsb/forms/>)

Questions?:  
Contact  
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508-642-6005

INCIDENT REPORT			
Name Last, First	<input type="text"/>	Home Address & Phone Number	<input type="text"/>
Observer/ASM ID or Trip ID	<input type="text"/>	Position Title	<input type="text"/>
Incident Location (Port, Town, State)	<input type="text"/>	Incident Date	<input type="text"/>
Vessel Name	<input type="text"/>	Vessel Permit Number	<input type="text"/>
Vessel Hull Number	<input type="text"/>	VTR Serial Number	<input type="text"/>
Employer Name	<input type="text"/>	Names of Persons Involved	<input type="text"/>
Incident Type	<input type="text"/>		
<small>***For a list of Incident Types, please use drop down list or see instructions "Filling out the Report" above</small>			
Provide a description of the incident with as much detail as possible. Include date, location, time, persons involved, exact quotes/statements, and other pertinent information.			
<input type="text"/>			
I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.			
Signature	<input type="text"/>	Date	<input type="text"/>