

Are Cannabis Workplace Accidents Going Unreported?

Workplace Safety in the Cannabis Industry: A Growing Concern

As the legal cannabis industry continues to expand, so do concerns about worker safety. Despite increased regulation and oversight, injury rates among cannabis workers remain a significant issue, raising questions about workplace hazards, training deficiencies, and reporting practices.

A recent Benchmark Gensuite survey found that 79% of respondents believe accidents and near misses in the cannabis sector are underreported. This alarming statistic suggests that the industry's safety challenges may be even more severe than official data indicates.

Common Hazards in the Cannabis Workplace

Cannabis production, processing, and retail operations present a variety of **occupational risks**, including:

Chemical Exposure – Workers handling fertilizers, pesticides, and extraction solvents may be exposed to hazardous chemicals without proper protection.

Repetitive Strain Injuries – Trimming, packaging, and processing tasks often involve repetitive motions that can lead to musculoskeletal disorders.

Indoor Air Quality Concerns – Poor ventilation in grow rooms can result in respiratory issues due to mold, dust, and allergens.

Fire and Explosion Risks – Extraction facilities using volatile chemicals like butane or ethanol face an increased risk of fire-related incidents.

Workplace Violence – Retail dispensaries, especially cash-heavy locations, are vulnerable to theft and robbery.

Are Employers Doing Enough?

Many industry insiders believe that cannabis companies must **prioritize worker safety** as part of their growth strategy. However, some businesses face **regulatory uncertainty** due to cannabis' federal classification, which complicates compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards.

Despite these challenges, proactive companies are implementing **workplace safety programs**, including:

Comprehensive Employee Training – Educating workers about potential hazards and proper handling procedures.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – Providing gloves, respirators, and ergonomic tools to reduce risks.

Improved Incident Reporting – Encouraging open communication about workplace accidents without fear of retaliation.

Workplace Safety Audits – Conducting routine inspections to identify and correct hazards before they cause injuries.

The Road Ahead

With the cannabis industry projected to grow rapidly in the coming years, workplace safety must become a top priority. Regulators, business owners, and employees alike must work together to ensure a safe, sustainable, and ethical work environment for all.

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