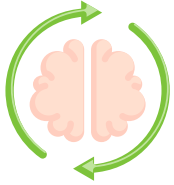


## COGNIZANT OF THE RISK

BY RACHEL REICHEL,  
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As industrial athletes, we weave through a spectrum of daily encounters from a loving family member, to a helpful neighbor, a familiar coffee shop barista, a friendly gym buddy, and a compassionate work colleague. Even within this network of five individuals, it's a startling reality that **at least one** may be navigating the challenges of mental health. Beyond statistics, our commitment is to cultivate a workplace where safety, support, and awareness flourish and injuries are prevented! Let's examine the vital intersection of mental health and suicide awareness, forging a resilient community that stands united, shattering stigmas, and extending a supportive hand to those in need.



### MENTAL HEALTH

Mental illness can range from mild to severe and can affect numerous aspects of a person such as a person's mood, behavior, and/or thought processes. Educate yourself on how you can help a co-worker, a loved one, or yourself to get the help needed.

#### Signs & Symptoms of Mental Health Struggles

To identify struggles with mental health, observe changes in eating habits, sleeping patterns, and detect signs of unusual behavior. Low energy, mood changes, and difficulties in performing daily tasks are additional cues. For those struggling, support involves open communication, connecting with supervisors or family, and providing educational resources.

For immediate help, contacting a primary care provider, discussing options with health insurance companies, and utilizing SAMHSA's National Helpline at 1-800-662-HELP are valuable resources. Additionally, reaching out to national, state, or county agencies can provide further assistance.



Many companies offer mental health options as part of their benefits package. Do you know what your company offers and are you utilizing your options?

### SUICIDE AWARENESS

Further than generalized mental health struggles, studies have shown that suicide rates tend to be the highest in males working in the industrial setting, specifically in natural resource mining, construction, automotive repair, agriculture, and warehousing. Recognizing the signs of suicidal ideation, such as increased substance abuse, giving away personal items, buying a weapon, or unjustified goodbyes becomes paramount.

#### How You Can Help

Supporting someone in crisis involves direct, compassionate conversations: asking about suicidal thoughts, expressing concern, and being physically present. Check out this [Suicide Prevention and Awareness postcard](#) to guide you in the right direction. Remember, asking if someone is considering suicide does *not* plant the idea!



For immediate assistance, call or text 988. You can also text NAMI to 741-741 for free crisis counseling. Additional resources include the Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE and, for disaster or tragedy, calling 1-800-985-5990 connects to crisis counseling centers within the network.



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**Work Right NW** is changing the way that companies view workplace hazards. Our focus is on educating the workforce to prevent injury. We provide access to Injury Prevention Specialists in the workplace to address the early signs of discomfort. We are changing the industry one company at a time by helping one person at a time.