

Working Alone

Points to consider, circumstances may differ.

Length of time the worker will be working alone:

- ▶ What is a reasonable length of time for the worker to be alone?
- ▶ Is it reasonable for the worker to be alone at all?
- ▶ How long will the worker be alone to finish the job?
- ▶ Is it legal for the worker to be alone while doing certain activities? (For example: Newfoundland & Labrador and possibly other jurisdictions restrict working alone in confined space or during lock-out/tag-out operations).
- ▶ What time of the day will the worker be alone?

Communication:

- ▶ What forms of communication are available?
- ▶ Is it necessary to “see” the work, or is voice communication adequate?
- ▶ Will emergency communication systems work properly in all situations?
- ▶ If the communication systems are located in a vehicle, do you need alternate arrangements to cover the worker when away from the vehicle?

Location of the work:

- ▶ Is the work in a remote or isolated location? (Remember, a remote location does not have to be far away. Storage rooms that are rarely used can be considered remote or isolated.)
- ▶ Is transportation necessary to get there? What kind of transportation is needed?
- ▶ Is the vehicle equipped with emergency supplies such as – food, drinking water and a first aid kit?
- ▶ Will the worker need to carry some or all of the emergency supplies with him/her when leaving the vehicle?
- ▶ What are the consequences if the vehicle breaks down?
- ▶ Will the worker have to leave the vehicle for long periods of time?
- ▶ Does the worker need training to be able to use the first aid equipment?

Type or nature of work:

- ▶ Is there adequate training and education provided for the worker to be able to work alone safely?
- ▶ If personal protective equipment is required, is it available, is it in good working order, and has the worker been trained in its use, care and storage?
- ▶ What machinery, tools or equipment will be used?
- ▶ Is there a high risk activity involved?
- ▶ Is fatigue likely to be a factor?
- ▶ Are there extremes of temperature?
- ▶ Is there risk of an animal attack, or poisoning/allergic reaction from insect/animal bites?
If the worker is working inside a locked building, how will emergency services be able to get in? (For example: a night cleaner in a secure office building.)
- ▶ Does the work involve working with money or other valuables?
- ▶ Does the work involve seizing property or goods (such as repossession, recovering stolen property)?

Characteristics of the individual who is working alone:

- ▶ Are there pre-existing medical conditions that may increase the risk?
- ▶ Does the worker have adequate levels of experience and training? (For example: first aid, communication systems repair, vehicle breakdowns, relevant administrative procedures and/or outdoor survival.)