

Lone Working

What is Lone working?

A Lone Worker is someone who works by themselves without close or direct supervision. Common examples are:

- Only one person works on the premises
- People work separately from others
- People work outside normal hours
- Mobile workers working at a number of places throughout the day

Why should I listen to this?

There are hazards associated with lone working. Arrangements should be made to ensure the lone work is at no more risk than employees working together.

What should the Ganger / supervisor do?

If lone working is going to occur then a risk assessment should be written. The risk assessment will help decide:

- a) can the job be done by a lone worker (if not, then another person **must** be found)
- b) identify the right level of supervision, training, instruction and protective equipment to ensure safety as far as is reasonably practicable.

When work is in remote areas, or there are known security issues or history, lighting, security systems, first aid, welfare and communication systems should be stricter.

Control measures should be in place for normal work and foreseeable emergencies e.g. fire, equipment failure, illness and accidents. The following factors must be considered:

- How long should the work take and how frequently should the worker report in?
- Has the worker a safe means of travel to and from the location, especially out of normal working hours?
- Is there access to adequate rest, hygiene, refreshment, welfare and first aid facilities?
- Can emergency services approach the location without hindrance, (procedures for responding to "worst case" emergencies should be in place?)

Is the work place safe?

- Is there a safe means of entry and exit to the workplace?
- Is there adequate illumination, heating and ventilation for the job to be carried out?
- Can all equipment, especially powered tools and access equipment such as ladders, be used safely?
- Can lifting operation be performed safely by one person?

The supervisor will brief operative before work starts.

REMEMBER

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A SYSTEM IN PLACE TO CHECK IN REGULARLY AND A PROCEDURE FOR WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE MISSING

What can I do?

When you are asked to work in isolation, then a specific lone working assessment will be produced. You need to tell your line manager of any known medical conditions that may identify additional risks.

Listen to the briefing where these control measures are described. If you feel that the control measures are not working, report this to the supervisor, who will monitor and review the control measures to ensure that they remain adequate.

You should take reasonable care of yourself by complying with MGJV specific training.

Co-operate with "trial runs". Communication and means for raising the alarm are important arrangements for lone workers. The system of communication should be regularly tested and maintained to ensure they remain effective.

Report any violent, anti-social behaviour or suspicious actions by others to your line manager and where appropriate the police.

REMEMBER
NOTHING IS SO IMPORTANT THAT IT CANNOT BE DONE SAFELY

Susan Brown
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