

Take 5 for Safety

Working Alone Policy
Pictures of the Week

Collider-Accelerator Department
6-12-12



Consequences of Working Alone

- Injury complications while personnel are unaided (i.e. burns, cuts, heart attack)
- A minor problem could develop more serious consequences if prompt assistance is required (i.e. spills, fire)
- Pressure, fatigue, or reduced supervision may contribute to impaired judgment (i.e. affecting experimental results, data)

Working Alone Definition

- A person is alone at work when they are on their own, when they cannot be seen or heard by another person, and when they cannot expect a visit or a communication from another worker or user
 - For example: a worker or user may work as part of a team, but others in the team may be unable to see or hear the worker for an hour or more if the team has spread out
 - In other situations, the person may be on their own for the shift in remote locations, such as making rounds
- There is no minimum time that a worker/user has to be on his or her own for the worker to be considered 'alone'
- Each situation should be assessed on its merits

Recommended Communication

- There should always be a means of communication available that will enable the worker/user to call for help in the event of an emergency
- There should be a procedure for regular contact to be made with the worker/user and the worker/user is trained in the procedure

Work Planning

- Identify hazards a worker/user may be exposed to assessing the risks of injury or harm arising from the hazards
 - This sometimes involves considering the chance or likelihood of a hazard occurring and, if it does occur, the extent of any injury or harm
- Implement control measures to eliminate or reduce the risks of injury or harm, and ensure they are monitored and reviewed on an ongoing basis
- Provide adequate information, instruction and training for people who work alone

Factors to Consider for Working Alone Work Planning

- How long would the person need to be alone to finish this job?
- What is a reasonable time for the person to be alone?
- Is it reasonable for the person to be alone at all?
- Is there increased risk at certain times of day?
- Is the work in a remote location?
- Is there adequate information and instruction for the person to be able to work alone safely?
- What machinery, tools and equipment may be used when alone?
- Is there high-risk activity? For example work at heights, work with electricity, work with hazardous substances or hazardous equipment?
- Are there procedures for regular contact with the person who works alone?
- Is the person physically capable of completing all work activity alone?
- Are you aware of a pre-existing medical condition that may increase risk?

Summary

- Working alone risk dependent on:
 - Hazards present, worker experience, worker health
 - Work planning and training
 - Supervisor knowledge and permission
 - Communication
- Some activities in SBMS explicitly not permitted alone, for example:
 - Performing work within the Arc-Flash Boundary for arc-flash Hazard/Risk Category of 3 or 4
 - Operating switches or breakers with arc-flash Hazard/Risk Category of 4
- Students “strongly discouraged” from working alone/after hours and, if so, use a 2-person rule

Pictures of the Week – African Road Rage













