

WORKING ALONE OR IN ISOLATION

What does it mean to work alone or in isolation? WorkSafeBC defines it as “to work in circumstances where assistance would not be readily available to the worker in case of an emergency or in case the worker is injured or in ill health”.

As a worker, it is important to establish if the work you will be doing fits that criteria. Here are some considerations around working alone or in isolation.

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

- IDENTIFY IF THE TASK INVOLVES WORKING ALONE OR IN ISOLATION
- UNDERSTAND THE HAZARDS
- DETERMINE A COMMUNICATION PLAN
- KNOW THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS



BC Forest Safety

WORKING ALONE OR IN ISOLATION PRODUCTS



IDENTIFY IF THE TASK YOU ARE COMPLETING FITS WITHIN THE CRITERIA OF WORKING ALONE OR IN ISOLATION

Your company may have a list of identified tasks that are considered as working alone with written procedures and protocols. Consider if your activities fall under these classifications. For instance, your task may be as simple as beginning work outside of your typical schedule. Make sure a supervisor is aware of the change in your schedule.

Before starting a task, as yourself:

- Does anyone know where I am?
- Am I expecting to see someone regularly or only in a “chance meeting?”.
- Who do I contact in case of an emergency and how would I initiate contact?

UNDERSTAND THE HAZARDS

- Identify any hazards before working alone.
- Follow the hierarchy of controls to minimize the hazards.
- Conduct a risk assessment, especially for working alone.
- Implement injury prevention controls.

ESTABLISH A COMMUNICATION PLAN

- Create a communication plan for safety verification with designated check-in persons.
- Document check-ins based on activity risk level.
- In an emergency situation, determine a quick and easy way to seek immediate assistance.

KNOW THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS

Health and safety emergencies require a specific plan tailored to the type of work and assessed levels of risk.

- Establish procedures for missed check-ins and emergencies.
- As of November 1, 2024, first-aid / emergency response drills will be mandatory. These drills will include scenarios for missing workers in isolation.
- Collaboration with supervisors and the Joint Health and Safety Committee is recommended for conducting emergency response drills.

Remember the key to safety when working alone is preparation and communication.

Scan the QR code
and subscribe to
BCFSC Crew Talks

