

# Working Alone or in Isolation



An introduction  
to Safetree<sup>TM</sup>

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**Forestry workers who work alone or out of sight and sound of other crew members are more at risk – especially if there’s an emergency.**

Incidents and injuries can happen at any time, and when people work alone or in isolation – particularly if they can’t communicate with others – any incident can quickly develop into a serious, life-threatening situation.

**The ACoP states: No person is allowed “to work alone unless there is an effective means of getting help in an emergency”.**

If the lone crew member is injured or becomes sick, help may not get to them as quickly as needed unless the crew knows the procedures for working alone. Clear “person-check” procedures must be established and all crew reminded what to do when one of them is working alone or in isolation. All crew members must fully understand these procedures.

**Person-check procedures should include the following:**

- ▶ Someone is made responsible for establishing and maintaining contact with the crew member working alone
- ▶ Knowing the time intervals between checks
- ▶ Making a check at the end of the day
- ▶ Knowing what to do if the crew member doesn’t respond at any time
- ▶ Using an alarm or notification method to remind crew members to call in, or that goes off if the crew member working alone doesn’t check in.

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Crew members working alone, and employers with workers who work alone, must take more care than ever with safety and ensure they follow safety procedures. Even with a person-check system, help could be some time away.

**Know what to do:** Section 12 of the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 says employers must make sure all workers know what to do in an emergency.

**Be able to communicate:** A two-way method, where the person working alone and another crew member can talk to each other, is essential.

- ▶ The crew member monitoring the person working alone can be further away, but they must be able to communicate with someone who can help within 10 minutes of any alarm.

**Know first aid:** Anyone working alone must have a current first aid certificate and carry a personal first aid kit with them.

**Be competent:** Everyone working alone or in isolation must be currently competent to do the task they are doing.