

Working in forestry-related operations at Alert Level 2 Play it Safe

Safe work practices to limit exposure to COVID-19 while operating under Alert Level 2 at work mean first assessing the risks, and then implementing the appropriate controls, so far as is reasonably practicable.

All work must be undertaken in such a way as to reduce any possible contact between workers and to promote physical distancing wherever possible. Remember to discuss and agree changes with your people.

General arrangements

- Keep crew / team sizes as small as possible.
- Keep a record of who is in each crew / team every day as you may be required to track back for contact tracing.
- When using a vehicle, ensure it is properly cleaned.
- When traveling for work or using a vehicle, limit the number of people per vehicle to maintain one metre spacing.

On site

- Require all workers to wash or clean their hands before entering and leaving the site.
- Regularly clean common contact surfaces.
- Where possible, conduct a remote induction before arrival on site, this can be done via video conferencing or by phone. If an in-person induction is required, reduce the number of people and hold them outdoors wherever possible.
- Visitors must sign-in and out using the register and follow the physical distancing protocols for the site at all times.
- Any sign-in registers should be recorded by one person where possible – do not pass material around the group and minimise contact with any screens or pens.

Site meetings

- Attendees should be one metre apart from each other.
- Hold meetings in open areas where possible.
- If rooms have to be used, they should be well ventilated and any windows opened to allow fresh air circulation.
- Meetings are to be held through teleconferencing or videoconferencing where possible.

Interacting with visitors and others

- Keep the engagement with the other person as brief as possible and maintain a two metre physical distance if you don't know the person.
- Ask for paperwork to be sent electronically rather than handed over as much as possible.
- If unavoidable, then either wear gloves when handling the item or wash hands before and after handling any paperwork.

Physical distancing

- Physical distancing is important to help protect us from COVID-19, which spreads via droplets on the breath and coughing and sneezing.
- People working together should keep at least one metre physical distancing and more where it is reasonably practicable, unless other mitigating measures are in place (see below for details of mitigating measures).
- People should keep two metres physical distancing from people they do not know.

Mitigating measures for close working

- In situations where it is believed work can only be done safely and effectively with less than one metre physical distancing, first consult the workers directly involved with the work.
- Close work like this can only be done using a hierarchy of controls and risk management, for example:
 - ▶ Physical barriers.
 - ▶ Increased hygiene and cleanliness.
 - ▶ Short duration works.
 - ▶ Wearing of additional PPE (face masks, face shields, gloves, safety glasses etc).
 - ▶ Increase ventilation in enclosed spaces.
- Note:
 - ▶ Face masks are only effective if used properly. See Appendix 8 for details.
 - ▶ Re-usable PPE must be thoroughly cleaned after use and not shared between workers. Single use PPE should be disposed of so that it cannot be reused.

Travel

- Travel to and from work in crew vans may be done as 'close working'. But if this is the case, mitigating measures and a hierarchy of controls like that outlined above must be used.
- When deciding whether to relax your travel arrangements remember that if you get a COVID-19 case in your crew:
 - ▶ that worker will be required to isolate for 14 days,
 - ▶ all close contacts (all of your crew) will be required to self-isolate for at least 72 hours for testing, and
 - ▶ your workplace may be responsible for infecting the communities your workers come from and return to.