

Dangers of Working Alone

A Risk Pool Member authorized an employee to start two hours early one morning. He tried to do a two-person job - changing blades on a brush hog shredder - by himself. His fellow employees arrived later to find him pinned underneath the equipment, and - because he was alone - no one could help extricate him prior to suffocation. The best plan is to avoid working alone during high-risk tasks. If an employee must work alone, consider the following:

1

High-Risk Solo Work – Includes tasks such as working from heights, in confined spaces, with electricity, hazardous materials, hazardous equipment, around roadways, bodies of water, or at treatment plants.



2

Hazard Assessment – Employers should evaluate potential workplace hazards and implement corrective actions to reduce risks for employees working alone.

3

Communication & Training – Talk with employees about their tasks, exposures, and solutions, while also providing appropriate safety education and training.



4

Monitoring & Reporting – Use check-in procedures (calls, drive-bys), ensure unsafe situations and near misses are reported, and provide reliable communication devices like radios or cell phones.

5

Technology & Safety Tools – Consider wearable devices that track movement, noise, air quality, or falls and send alerts if employees are in danger.



LEARN MORE WITH THESE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- [Safety + Health Lone Worker Safety](#)
- ASSP: [How to Protect Lone Workers With a Safety Management Program](#)
- TMLIRP T.I.P.S. Sheet: [Poisonous Plants and Insects](#)
- TMLIRP [Safety Manual Sample](#): Working Alone (page 70)