

Talk Lead By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Site/Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather Report/Conditions:

\_\_\_\_\_ High: \_\_\_\_\_ °C Wind Speed: \_\_\_\_\_ km/hr  
\_\_\_\_\_ Low: \_\_\_\_\_ °C Wind Gusts: \_\_\_\_\_ km/hr

## Important Factors to Consider When Working Alone

**Someone is considered to be working alone when they cannot be seen or heard by someone else, and assistance is not readily available to the worker should there be an injury, illness or other emergency.**

Working alone often happens in agriculture and is a risk that needs to be managed; consider the following points before someone works alone on your farm:

- Should the person be working alone at all? Think about what could go wrong and how bad the outcome could be (identify the existing and potential hazards, then assess them for risk; you can refer to the [AgSafe Alberta FarmSafe Plan Manual](#) for help with this).
- Does the person have the training, experience, skill and ability to work safely without supervision or anyone else nearby?
- Is the person reasonably healthy and fit? If someone has an injury or illness that could impact their ability to work alone safely? Are they taking any medications that may affect their thinking, motor skills, how extreme temperatures may affect them, etc.?
- Is this person a new, older or young worker? Remember, new and young workers have unique work factors that will affect their ability to work safely.
- What is a reasonable length of time for the person to be working alone for and how long will or could the job take? How often will someone need to check in on them? Will the check in be done visually or verbally?
- What time of day will the person be working alone, for example, early in the morning, late at night, in dark or during the hottest time of the day?
- Is it reasonable for the person to be alone? No one should be working alone in a confined space (i.e., septic tank) or on machines that need to be locked out and tagged out.
- Is there a tested form of communication in place that will work as needed in all situations?
- If the communication system is in a vehicle or piece of equipment, is another form of communication needed when the person is outside of the vehicle or equipment (i.e., performing repairs on the equipment)?
- Does the work area, vehicle or equipment have the necessary emergency supplies, such as food, water, a first aid kit and a fire extinguisher? Is the person working alone trained to use the first aid equipment available to them?
- How far away from someone else is the person working alone? Is it a few yards in a building or is it several kilometers?
- If someone needs to get to that location and help the person who has been working alone, is there a form of transportation available that will allow the person to be brought back if needed? Is the check-person trained in first aid?
- Does the farm have emergency action plans that can be followed in the event of an emergency (i.e., medical emergency)? Is there a transportation plan in place and ready to use should person who has been working alone require transport to the nearest hospital?

