



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 dead. He was 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:

Some High-Risk Activities when Working Alone:



- Working from heights.
- Confined spaces.
- Working with electricity.
- Working with hazardous materials.
- Using hazardous equipment, such as chainsaws.
- Working at water or wastewater treatment plants.
- Mowing or other landscape activities.



How can I ensure my employees are safe when working alone?



- Assess potential workplace hazards and take corrective action to prevent or minimize the risks of working alone.
- Talk with employees about the assigned tasks, discussing exposures and solutions.
- Provide appropriate safety training and education.
- Establish a check-in procedure for staff, check in frequently, conduct "drive-bys."
- Report all unsafe situations, incidents, and near misses.
- Consider 'wearables' that provide technological data to track employees and send notification if an employee is in danger.

Additional Resources

- [Safety + Health Lone Worker Safety](#)
- [TMLIRP Media Library](#)
 - Workplace Violence: The Calm Before the Storm, Disk # 485
 - Groundskeeping Safety - Be a Pro!!! Disk # 796