Working **ALONE**

WHEN IS A WORKER **WORKING ALONE?**

The working alone requirements in the OH&S Code apply when **both** of the following conditions are met:

- Workers are working by themselves
- Assistance is not readily available to the worker if there is an injury, illness, or emergency

Is assistance readily available?

Awareness	Willingness	Timeliness
Will someone capable of providing assistance know the worker needs help?	Is it reasonable to expect they will provide helpful assistance?	Will assistance be provided within a reasonable timeframe?

If workers face hazards that pose a high risk of serious injury given the type of work, remoteness, common hazards, etc., the requirement that assistance be "readily available" may actually need to be treated as "immediately available."

Questions to ask:

- If I need help, will anyone hear me yell or see me?
- Are there duress alarms or call bells accessible? Do I know where they go?
- If others are present, are they capable of helping? Or are they unable to help (e.g. sick patients) or unwilling to help (e.g. they are part of the hazard)?

EMPLOYER **REQUIREMENTS**

Employers with workers who work alone must address the associated hazards on the hazard assessment and must implement appropriate measures to eliminate or control those hazards. Working alone can be eliminated by reorganizing work schedules and assignments and/or rearranging the physical layout of the work site to ensure contact between workers.

If a worker is working alone, the employer/designate must:

- Provide the worker with an effective means of electronic communication with the employer/designate

  AND
- Contact the worker at regular intervals appropriate to the hazards associated with the work

If electronic communication is not practicable at the work site, the employer or their designate must visit the work site at appropriate intervals or have the worker contact the employer at appropriate intervals. The Employer should have a **Working Alone Plan** that identifies the means of communication and the check-in intervals. The contact person, or "buddy," should not be the worker's family member or friend.