

# SAFETY ALERT



## Maintaining Contact with Staff

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### Background

Working alone or in isolation is a considerable risk for our industry. Many of us are required to work alone for hours or days at a time. Under these conditions it is essential that there is a robust contact plan. Contact at sign in, during the shift and at knock off are critical to ensuring safety.

A recent search and rescue incident revealed some of the potential weaknesses in how we monitor field staff when they finish work for the day.

### Control Measures

This incident shows how important it is to maintain contact with staff. These tips can help ensure safety:

- Have a robust working alone or communication procedure available to all staff.
- Communicate this procedure regularly through toolbox meetings.
- Regularly review this procedure to ensure it is effective.
- Conduct an Emergency Response Procedure test at regular intervals.
- All staff must be in contact with their supervisor when they start work, during the day and at knock off.