



#3 WORKING ALONE

Talk Leader Instructions:

This is background information ONLY. Be sure to customize to your operation and facilities.

- ✓ Print copies of this sheet for yourself and each of the participants.
- ✓ Lead a discussion with your workers about the materials on this sheet at a location that is appropriate to the topic. Be sure to give real life examples whenever possible.
- ✓ Be open to questions.
- ✓ Conclude with a brief review of the main points or a summary based on the discussion.
- ✓ Fill in your operation name, location and the date on your sheet. Have each worker sign your sheet to confirm their attendance.
- ✓ File your sheet in your worker training records to document the training experience.

WORK ACTIVITY

Some farm work such as driving a tractor is done alone, while other tasks such as handling cattle are much safer when completed with helpers. No matter what the task – it is imperative that each worker takes responsibility for his own safety by knowing the job, knowing the hazards, and knowing what to do if something goes wrong.

BACKGROUND

- Two out of three farm fatalities (60%) tend to be the owner-operator. The remaining farm fatalities tend to be: a child of the owner-operator (15%); a hired worker (12%); a relative – perhaps a brother or parent (8%); or the owner-operator's spouse (3%), with the remaining (2%) being other visitors. - (Canadian Agricultural Injury Reporting (CAIR) www.cair-sbac.ca)
- Just over half of farm incidents happen while the victim is working alone. About 25% of incidents happen in the presence of a family member. - (Source CAIR)
- Tractors account for almost half (47.5%) of farm fatalities, whereas agricultural machinery other than tractors account for almost one-quarter (24.3%). The remaining quarter (28.4%) of fatalities are by causes not related to machinery such as livestock attacks, falls, drowning, and electrocution, among others. - (Source CAIR)

KEY POINTS

- ✓ Review the complete Standard Operating Practices for this work at least every year or at the start of the season when you will be using this type of equipment or performing that work.
- ✓ Ensure workers are properly trained and equipped to do the work in a safe manner.
- ✓ Discuss anticipated problems/hazards and indicators of potential problems. Then discuss how each situation should be handled. Remember – problems and hazards can come in many forms such as inclement weather, machinery breakdowns, worker illness, livestock or wildlife hazards, fire or other disasters, among many others.
- ✓ Does the worker have the knowledge and means (tools, physical strength, personal protective equipment, etc.) to manage or avoid potential hazards?
- ✓ Is the worker medically fit and suitable to work alone? If not, leave difficult or hazardous tasks to be completed when help is available.
- ✓ Prearrange a start and finish time for the job and arrange to have someone check-in with the lone worker at least every two hours. Write down this information and put it in a common area for all to see with precise directions so that Emergency Services can easily find them. *(cont'd on page 2)*



#3 WORKING ALONE PAGE 2

Talk Leader Instructions:

This is background information ONLY. Be sure to customize to your operation and facilities.

- ✓ Print copies of this sheet for yourself and each of the participants.
- ✓ Lead a discussion with your workers about the materials on this sheet at a location that is appropriate to the topic. Be sure to give real life examples whenever possible.
- ✓ Be open to questions.
- ✓ Conclude with a brief review of the main points or a summary based on the discussion.
- ✓ Fill in your operation name, location and the date on your sheet. Have each worker sign your sheet to confirm their attendance.
- ✓ File your sheet in your worker training records to document the training experience.

(cont'd from page 1)

- ✓ Ensure the lone worker has a means of communication such as a cell phone or two-way radio.
- ✓ Ensure the worker knows how to direct Emergency Services to where they will be working.
- ✓ Ensure each worker takes responsibility for his own safety by ensuring he knows the job, the hazards, and what to do if something goes wrong.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES / CONTACTS

In case of emergency, call 911 or your local emergency services.

MORE RESOURCES

"Safety Up! On Working Alone" [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/aet12213](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/aet12213)

COMMENTS / SUGGESTIONS:

Operation Name _____

Location _____

Meeting Leader _____

Date _____

TOOLBOX TALK PARTICIPANTS

Print name _____ Signature _____

Print name _____ Signature _____

Print name _____ Signature _____

Print name _____ Signature _____

Print name _____ Signature _____