

Trent University Working Alone Risk Assessment

When using the Risk Assessment template below, consider the following:

- a) Tasks and hazards involved in the work;
- b) Consequences resulting from a worst-case scenario;
- c) The possibility of an incident or injury that would prevent an individual from calling for help;
- d) The individual's training and experience level;
- e) The time the work is to be conducted; and
- f) Access to emergency assistance.

Process:

1. Complete the Working Alone Risk Assessment Pre-Controls table. This assessment should be conducted assuming that no additional controls are in place to mitigate hazards. Refer to the tables referenced below for further information and instruction.
2. Identify appropriate risk mitigation measures for workplace activities and hazards with a Moderate and / or High risk rating (see Table 5). Mitigation measures typically fall into one of four categories:
3.
 - Avoidance: take measures to avoid the risk from occurring, i.e. by not allowing tasks to be done by a lone worker.
 - Risk Reduction: take steps to reduce the likelihood of a risk happening, or the severity of an impact should one occur, i.e. through advanced training, purchasing equipment or PPE to make a task safer, or mandating a check-in process for certain activities.
 - Risk Transfer: passing the risk on to a third party, i.e. hiring a contractor who is qualified to complete the work.
 - Risk Acceptance: accepting the risk as it stands.
4. Complete the Working Alone Risk Assessment Post-Controls table with mitigation measures identified. Activities that still result in a High risk rating after mitigation measures have been identified and accounted for should not be conducted while working alone.
5. Transfer information from the Specific Workplace Activities & Hazards column and the Mitigation Measures Column from the Working Alone Risk Assessment Post-Controls to the Working Alone Activity Registry section within the Working Alone Safety Plan document. Follow instructions as outlined in the Working Alone Safety Plan document.

[illegible]

[illegible]

Table 1: Examples of Workplace Hazards

(This is not an exhaustive list and the supervisor or Principal Investigator is responsible for identifying the detailed site-specific hazards)

Physical & Mechanical Energy	Environment	Substances
Sustained/Static/Awkward/ Constrained postures	Temperature/Humidity exposure (heat/cold stress)	Compressed gas, pressurized containers
Repetitive movements	Difficult terrain (slopes, cliffs, rocky, slick/wet, etc.)	Corrosive
High forces (push, pull, lift)	Weather (strong rain, wind, waves, etc.)	Fumes, vapours, gases
Slips, trips and falls	Lighting	Flammable
Being caught in or struck by moving machinery or other objects	Wildlife (aggression, toxic, etc.)	Oxidizer
Fire or explosions	Workplace violence (public)	Toxic
Transportation and vehicle related accidents	Confined Space	Allergens
Overhead hazards (objects falling, powerlines, etc.)	Entanglement	Animals, Insects, etc.
Heights (falling, ladders, etc.)	Engulfment	Bacteria, viruses
Equipment (moving parts, pinch points, nip points, shear points, sharp edges)	Traffic	Blood and bodily fluids
Noise		Carcinogenic, cytotoxic substances
Vibration (Contact stress, etc.)		Materials (asbestos, lead, silica, wood dust, etc.)

Table 2: Likelihood of an Incident Occurring

What is the Likelihood of an accident occurring in this situation or location? (Consider past incidents, or those in similar areas)	Score
Most likely	10
Very high likelihood	8
Quite possible, not unusual	6
Unusual, not likely	4
Remote possibility	2
Extremely remote possibility, but conceivable	0.5

Practically impossible (one in a million chance)	0.1
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Table 3: Likelihood of a Critical Injury

What is the likelihood of a disabling injury resulting from this type of hazard or accident	Score
Expected	10
Probable	8
Unusual, not expected	6
Remotely possible	4
Practically impossible	2

Table 4: Likelihood of help being available

What is the likelihood of help being available?		Score
Almost Never	Worker is in an isolated area with no one likely to pass by or see the worker for 2 hours or more	12
Rare	Worker is working in an area where people pass by infrequently, e.g. every 30 to 60 minutes.	8
Occasionally	Worker is in an area where some people pass by regularly e.g. every 30 minutes or so.	6
Usual	Worker is not in the constant view of others, but if the worker was unexpectantly gone for any length of time, someone would notice and take action.	4
Frequently	The Worker is in an area where people pass by often enough that there is a high likelihood of witnesses.	2
Continuous	The worker is in an area surrounded by a high volume of potential witnesses	1

Table 5: Risk Ratings

Score	Risk
<250	Low Risk
251-400	Moderate Risk
>401	High Risk