

Does Your Business Need Man Down Radios?



An 8 step checklist to work out whether man down protection fits your team, and what to put in place if it does.

PART ONE

Do you need man down protection?

- 1 List everyone who works alone**
Note every role that spends any part of a shift out of sight or earshot of colleagues. Include early, late, weekend and on-call work. ☐
- 2 Look at what could stop them calling for help**
Falls from height, slips and trips, vehicles and plant, electrical work, sudden illness or assault. If none of these apply, an emergency button may be enough. ☐
- 3 Ask how long it would take anyone to notice**
If one of these workers was hurt and couldn't speak, how long would it be before someone realised? Minutes is very different from hours. ☐
- 4 Check whether anything raises the alarm automatically**
Phone check-ins and emergency buttons both rely on the worker being able to act. Note whether any current measure still works if they can't. ☐

Your answer. If you found a lone worker, a risk that could leave them unable to call for help and a delay before anyone would notice, and nothing in place raises the alarm automatically, man down protection is worth adding to your lone working risk assessment. If not, review this checklist whenever roles, sites or shift patterns change.

PART TWO

Planning the rollout

- 5 Decide who receives and responds to alerts**
Name a control room, duty supervisor or colleague for every hour a lone worker is on shift, plus a backup in case they don't respond. ☐
- 6 Map where your people work**
One site or several, indoors or out, and any basements or areas with no mobile signal. This decides whether a DMR, PoC or hybrid radio suits you best. ☐
- 7 Test coverage before you buy**
Try radios in the hardest spots, such as basements, plant rooms, stairwells and remote corners of site, and record the results. ☐
- 8 Set it up for each role and train your team**
Agree tilt and timer settings for each job, show staff how to cancel a false alarm and raise one manually, and test the feature regularly. ☐