



## Lone worker safety: some high-risk environments

Three high-risk sectors and the tools to ensure lone worker safety.



*Employers are legally required to take measures to protect the health and safety of lone workers. In environments where employees cannot be seen or heard, suitable measures are needed. Here are three high-risk sectors in which isolated workers are particularly vulnerable.*

### Maintenance

#### **The high risks of corrective interventions**

Addressing lone worker safety is particularly important when corrective maintenance is needed. Unlike preventive maintenance, which is planned and organized, corrective maintenance linked to a machine breakdown is unplanned and often requires immediate, ad hoc action. Moreover, corrective maintenance may be needed at any time, day or night. The resulting stress and pressure can add to the risk of workplace accidents - especially when the equipment in question is critical to production.

### Maintenance activities

#### **The risk of lone worker 'invisibility'**

Some maintenance technicians are constantly alone during their shifts. They may start early before other staff arrive, or remain on site after colleagues have left. Such constant isolation can lead to technicians unintentionally becoming 'invisible' to colleagues. Robust procedures and equipment must be installed to ensure that such lone workers can always reach colleagues/responders with location-enabled alarms.



## Surveillance

### Security guards working alone

Security guards are especially vulnerable to physical and verbal abuse. They often work outside normal business hours, in isolated and remote sites. They often patrol large sites or facilities, and may cover large distances at night.

Constant isolation can contribute to security guards becoming tired, stressed and liable to make poor decisions should an incident occur. They require rugged, ultra-reliable communications systems in order to feel connected, and be capable of raising an alarm under all circumstances (accident, illness, attack).

## Tools to ensure lone worker safety

Lone workers will always be vulnerable. But advanced communication and personal alarm solutions—such as those provided by Ascom—can minimize the risks they face. Even if incidents never occur, merely having systems can make lone workers feel safer and more secure, which in turn leads to increased job satisfaction and productivity. Ascom is a specialist in personal safety solutions for the most demanding environments. Thousands of our systems are currently at work in power plants, factories, paper mills, warehouses, distributions centers, hospitality venues and secure establishments worldwide. **Contact us to learn how Ascom can boost lone worker safety and productivity at your organization.**



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