



Date: 5 August 2014

## HAZARD - WORKING ALONE AROUND TRUCKS AT NIGHT

### Working Alone - Is it safe?

Working alone is not in itself against the law and it will often be safe to do so. However, the law requires employers to consider carefully, and then deal with, any health and safety risks for people working alone.

Employers are responsible for the health, safety and welfare at work of all their employees. They also have responsibility for the health and safety of any contractors or self-employed people doing work for them.

These responsibilities cannot be transferred to any other person, including those people who work alone.

Employees have responsibilities to take reasonable care of themselves and other people affected by their work activities and to co-operate with their employers in meeting their legal obligations.

### Recent Incidents

- **Monday 23 Jun 2014 - 0520 am** - A man dies after being crushed between two trucks at a transport yard in Henderson. Emergency services were called but were unable to save the man who died at the scene.
- **Wednesday 30 July 2014 - 0445 am** - A man was found crushed between two trucks at a commercial premises at Auckland Airport. The injured man was a warehouse employee getting a vehicle ready for use when the incident occurred.
- **Saturday 2 August 2014 - 1210 am** - A man was found after being squashed between a truck and a fence in East Tamaki. Ambulance staff took the man straight to hospital in a serious condition.

### Methods of Monitoring Lone Worker Safety

Numerous methods have been developed and are currently in use by companies world-wide. These methods include:

- **Phone-based check-in systems.** Employees are required to call in to a designated receiver after a predetermined time. Check-ins are often performed hourly or bi-hourly.
- **Buddy systems.** Employees may be paired up to perform certain tasks. Theoretically, should an emergency occur and one of the employees be rendered incapacitated, the other would remain available to call for help and provide aid.
- **Safety monitoring smart phone applications.** With the widespread adoption of **smart phones**, the deployment of a dedicated application allowing employees to quickly request aid has become more feasible. These applications may provide a **panic button** or allow for prompt check-in without requiring a phone call to be made.
- **Safety monitoring devices.** Dedicated monitoring devices have become a new best practice in employee safety monitoring. Typically, products of this type offer multiple methods of alerting including both automated and manual methods, as well as real-time location awareness and alerting.

Working around trucks, alone, in the yard during darkness can be hazardous. Minimize the possibility of harm to your employees by ensuring they are informed and aware of this hazard.