

May 2018  
Environmental and  
Occupational Health &  
Safety Unit

## DON'T WORK ALONE!

The last couple of years  
has seen an increasing  
trend for workers in our  
industry to work alone.

Recent fatalities that  
have occurred in our  
industry over the past  
few years have  
highlighted that working  
alone means workers  
involved in a serious  
incident are at a greater  
risk of not receiving  
immediate attention -  
medical or otherwise -  
that might save their  
lives.

This has now occurred in  
a number of preventable  
workplace fatalities in  
our industry right around  
the country, leaving  
families, friends and  
workmates devastated  
and looking for an  
explanation.  
In 2014, a 54 y.o.  
builder's labourer was  
working alone in a EWP  
at the Royal Adelaide

hospital. He suffered  
fatal crush injuries.

In 2016, a 54 year old  
boilermaker, was  
working alone in a EWP  
on the Melbourne  
Convention Centre  
expansion. He suffered  
fatal crush injuries.

In February 2017, a 69  
year old painter was  
working alone when he  
fell 3-4 meters on a  
Vcon/Element Five site  
in Balnarring (near  
Dromana). He died in  
hospital two days later.

In 2017 in Sydney, a  
rigger working alone on  
top of a material hoist  
suffered fatal head  
injuries.

Again in 2017, a 56 year  
old worker at the Impex  
Gas Plant in Darwin,  
whilst reportedly working  
alone installing  
insulation in a large  
tank, fell and died.

What is the common link  
in all of the above  
fatalities? Other than the  
tragic impact these  
fatalities have on the  
families, friends and  
work colleagues, all the  
victims were working  
alone when the incidents  
occurred.

If we can take anything  
from these tragedies, it  
is that there should

always be someone  
working with you, to  
immediately assist if  
something goes wrong.

Never work alone.  
If any employer says you  
are able to work alone,  
say no. It is simply not a  
safe system of work.

Every worker has the  
right to a safe workplace  
and the right to go home  
at the end of the day.

If you're not sure:  
**Stand Up, Speak Out,  
Come Home.**

Contact the CFMEU if you  
have any concerns:

**08 9228 6900**

