

Karradale Trading

Lone & Remote Working Policy 2021

Background

It is well known that working alone and in remote situations is the norm on many Australian farms. The nature of farming and the type of work, as well as the location and timing of the jobs to be done can be challenging and is magnified when working remotely or alone.

Technology has evolved with many farms using sophisticated single-operator machinery and equipment. Financial pressures have meant that many farms have significantly reduced the number of employees working on increasingly larger and more remote properties.

But if something happens to you when you are working alone, who will know where you are and when to start looking for you?

Accidents resulting in serious injury or even death can occur at any time on-farm due to the inherent danger of the work. Accidents are not only caused by machinery and vehicles.

They can be caused by time pressure, equipment failure, livestock temperament, distractions and fatigue, etc.

Karradale aims to put in place safe guards to ensure the risk to you whilst working with us is minimised.

Before you Start Work

- Plan the jobs that need to be done and assemble the appropriate tools and resources.
- Be clear on the requirements of the job and the time frame required for each task and if possible, tell someone when you leave and where you are going.
- Undertake regular inspections, completing necessary repairs and maintenance to machinery and tools before you leave the workshop.
- ALWAYS carry a charged mobile phone, 2-Way radio – mobile units are housed in the bottle house. CB radio's are in all utes.
- Ensure you have a mobile phone charger cable to take to work.
- **Karradale requires employees join the opt in (GPS) tracking feature called Life 360. It enables live tracking of all staff and farm owners to ensure people are accounted for to, during and from work.**
- **During your out of work hours please turn off the location sharing option and turn back on when at work. More details at the end of this document.**
- During long trips or during machinery escorts, always assess the route, weather conditions and terrain and PLAN your travel route, departure and return times. Allow time for travel and the possibility of fatigue.
- Be clear on the emergency procedures to follow including fire, evacuation, contacting emergency services.

On the Job

Equipment

- ALWAYS start and use machinery and equipment according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Conduct daily inspections on machinery and equipment - Maintain, repair and test equipment prior to use.
- Breakdowns can be very challenging when working alone or remotely.

Resources

- ALWAYS use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Be clear on the jobs that need to be done and the time frame required.
- NEVER compromise personal safety to rush a job or get the work done a certain way.
- Manage your hydration, sustenance, fatigue and any medication requirements (if applicable).
- Ensure communication devices are charged and working prior to each shift such as phones and/or GPS

Location

- Understand the issues of working in varying weather conditions and the effect on workers: heat, if any shade/cover is available, wind, humidity, rain and other kinds of precipitation, fatigue.
- Being able to correctly communicate your location on the property is critical in case of emergency - ensure you have GPS capabilities or have downloaded an app that can work offline.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Complete First Aid training and know where first aid kits are located.
- Keep in touch - with clear and agreed time frames. If contact is not made in an agreed time frame, be clear on how emergency procedures will be activated and applied.
- If you or someone you know is suffering from mental health issues tell your supervisor. Working alone or living in remote areas can trigger depression, anxiety, or other mental health issues.
- Safety is your responsibility. Ask for more training if you are unsure about anything.

More on Life360



What Is Life360?

Life360 is a group communication app that enables the owner of the premium level of the app (Karradale) to invite other free users to join their "circle". Karradale has created its own "Karradale Team" circle for all staff members and family involved in the farm to enable safer working in isolation and travel on lonely roads during work. Karradale pays for its subscription and will invite you to join for free when you are working with us. You get to choose to be involved ALWAYS and at any time can stop sharing your location (ie when you head off for days off). We do ask that as part of this policy that you keep your location sharing on during work hours. At the end of your time with us you can leave the circle permanently or if you forget we will always remove you once you have headed out the drive.

We have used it on farm for some time now and the benefits of the app are great. Use it to know where your workmates are, how long they might take and to know where you need to go in a paddock to meet someone.

Important considerations for Battery life

Life360 has the lowest battery drain of all locator apps on the market. They have an advanced algorithm that helps them to decide when to wake up your phone and update your location—so they never just leave your GPS on. That said, every app that uses location will use some extra battery.

Most users should expect about 10% shorter battery life in a 24-hour period when running Life360. This amount can vary significantly depending on how often you have the app open, how often you manually refresh a Circle member's location, or how often you drive.

When the device is in transit, Life360 turns on high precision GPS in order to show detailed history driving routes which can drain battery over long periods of time (longer drives).

They are always working to improve battery usage, so make sure you have the newest version of the app on your device. Additionally, always make sure you have your phone charging when driving to minimise the impact. At Karradale we consider the safety of using Life360 to outweigh the extra 10% battery life needed to keep you safe.

REFERENCE FARMSAFE AUSTRALIA

[Lone and Remote Workers - Farmsafe](#)