

Applying iNet® Now in Lone Worker Scenarios



People who perform work in isolation without direct supervision are known as lone workers. Lone workers exist across almost every industry, but there are an especially large number of lone workers in industrial environments like oil and gas, utilities, water treatment, and chemical manufacturing.

Lone workers could work hundreds of miles from other people or in an isolated part of a plant, such as a blast furnace in a steel mill. Some lone workers are active outside normal business hours, for example, a utility worker investigating a complaint at 3:00am.

Putting lone worker protection in place is the law in many countries. For example, Canada Bill C45 holds individuals and corporations liable for lone worker safety. Despite the volume of regulations and laws, there are not specific steps for safety leaders to follow to ensure lone workers are safe. Case in point, OSHA standard 1915.84 specifies that safety teams are responsible for protecting lone workers, but the language is vague and raises more questions than it answers.

Since no best practices exist, safety teams employ less than effective tactics to keep workers safe.

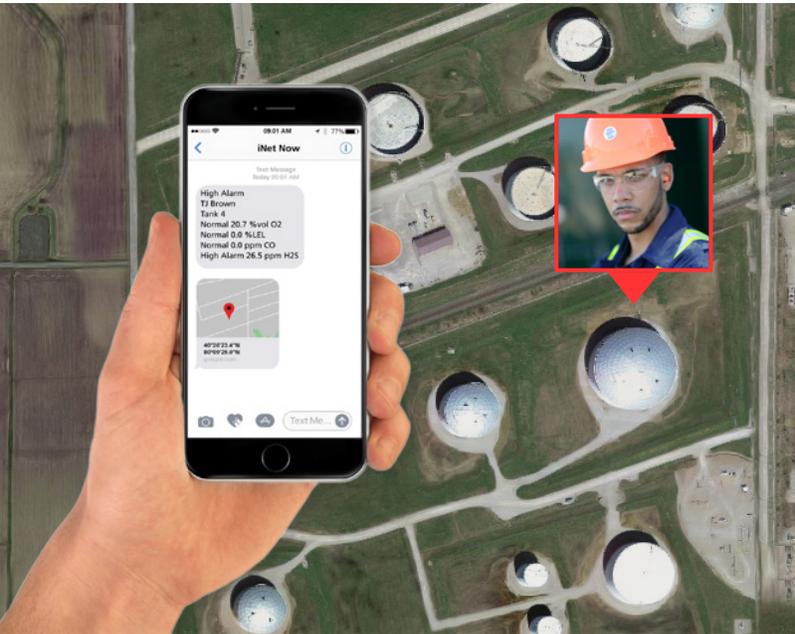
- The “buddy system,” or taking an extra person along, is highly inefficient and if a gas hazard is encountered, both workers will likely be impacted.
- Check-ins, both automated and manual, take workers away from their core tasks and the supervisors have no insight on worker status when they aren’t checking in.
- Lone workers need the best gas detectors, but using gas detectors is not enough, if a worker becomes unconscious there is no way to alert another person in real time.
- Lone worker pendants are useful, but for industrial workers in hazardous environments, they don’t detect gas, and that means more equipment for the worker to wear.
- Using Fleet Management solutions as a proxy for a true lone worker solution puts lone workers at risk. Fleet Management solutions track vehicle position, not a person’s position, and don’t alert based on gas, panic, or man-down situations.

What’s Really Needed to Keep Lone Workers Safe?

Real-time situational awareness of gas hazards, man-down situations, and worker distress calls are needed to keep workers safe. They should have a rugged gas detector equipped with man-down and panic alarms that can be sent to the cloud. Sending data directly to the cloud eliminates the need to set up computers in the field and eliminates dependencies on IT. Sending data to the cloud also ensures that a safety leader can be alerted about gas hazards, panic, and man-down situations even if they are miles away. Certainly, other situational data is available from the field, but when there is an incident, there are three data points that require action: gas, panic, and man-down data, other data can be examined at a later time.

Using iNet Now to Keep Lone Workers Safe

iNet® Now is a live monitoring software application that provides real-time text and email alerts for gas hazards, panic, and man-down situations allowing you to see and respond to incidents as they happen. A map of workers pinpoints their precise location and status eliminating the need for lone worker check-ins. All real-time data is available in a log, exportable for reporting.



iNet Now is Ready in 4 Steps

- A worker carries a Ventis Pro Series Multi-Gas Monitor and a smart device
- The smart device runs the iNet Now Sync app in the background to send information via cell or Wi-Fi from the gas detector to the cloud; there is no need for the worker to pair the devices, any app works with any Ventis Pro
- When the gas detector goes into alarm, a real-time alert is generated
- The alerted person then follows established response protocols

Case Study

A large oil and gas producer previously relied on workers to report lone worker incidents. After a shift, they were required to document every gas exposure. Workers found this time consuming, inaccurate because it was hard to remember events that happened hours ago, and distracting because it took them away from their jobs. With iNet Now, this customer was able to remove the responsibility of reporting alarms in the field after the work shift, to instead reporting to the safety leader in real time. The safety leader received the real-time alert, explored the map, documented the situation, and verified worker safety all without leaving his office.