Prohibited Isolated Work

Occupational Health, Safety and Injury Prevention

8/31/2015
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 It is Cornell’s practice that an isolated employee shall not perform hazardous work.

2.0 SCOPE

2.1 This Prohibited Isolated Work Protocol applies to all Cornell University employees, except employees at Weill Medical College or work activities related to research.

2.2 Isolated work activities related to research should be reviewed by the department and appropriate countermeasures shall be put in place where needed.

3.0 PROCEDURES

3.1 While hazardous work should be determined on a case-by-case basis, an employee may never conduct the following work activities alone:

3.1.1 Work with high voltage (>1000 Volts).
3.1.2 Work with any exposed, energized electrical system over 480 volts.
3.1.3 Work performed during ongoing normal production operations where the unexpected energization, start-up or release of energy could cause injury.
   a. Work where an employee is required to remove or bypass machine guards or other safety devices;
   b. Work where an employee is required to place any part of his or her body into a point of operation or into an area on a machine or piece of equipment where work is performed.
3.1.4 Work with highly reactive/unstable materials or acutely toxic materials.
3.1.5 Work in permit-required confined spaces.
3.1.6 Work requiring the use of a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).
3.1.7 Work requiring a fall arrest system, including aerial work platforms that require fall arrest systems and on roofs with a slope greater than 4 feet vertical to 12 feet horizontal.
3.1.8 Other highly hazardous work that is likely or has a high probability to cause serious injury or impairment.
   Examples include but not limited to;
   a. Snow Removal on roofs
   b. Outdoor temperatures exceeding a Heat Index of 100°F or temperatures below -11°F
   c. Extension ladders unable to be tied off or secured

Note: The secondary person does not have to be someone of the same labor grade. Their purpose is be in the work area and be able to summon emergency services should the need arise.

3.2 If there is any question as to whether the task should be considered hazardous or not, consult with EHS to ensure adequate protection.

3.3 An employee performing isolated work not meeting the above definitions should keep their supervisor or co-workers abreast of their location and nature of such work and when they expect to regain contact.
4.0 DEFINITIONS

4.1 Acute toxicity is defined as the adverse effects resulting from a single (or short) exposure to a chemical substance or repeated exposures within a short period of time (less than 24 hours), and which also occur within a short period of time following exposure.

4.2 A confined space:
   4.1.1 Is large enough for an employee to enter fully and perform assigned work;
   4.1.2 Is not designed for continuous occupancy by the employee; and
   4.1.3 Has a limited or restricted means of entry or exit.

   A permit-required confined space is a confined space with one or more of these characteristics:
   4.1.4 Contains or has the potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere;
   4.1.5 Contains a material with the potential to engulf someone who enters the space;
   4.1.6 Has an internal configuration that might cause an entrant to be trapped or asphyxiated by inwardly converging walls or by a floor that slopes downward and tapers to a smaller cross section; and/or
   4.1.7 Contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazards.

4.3 Fall Arrest Systems is a system used to arrest an employee in a fall from a working level. It consists of an anchorage, connectors, a body belt or body harness and may include a lanyard, deceleration device, lifeline, or suitable combinations of these.

4.4 Hazardous work is defined as work that has the potential of causing serious harm to an employee.

4.5 Highly Reactive/Unstable Materials are those that have the potential to vigorously polymerize, decompose, condense, or become self-reactive under conditions of shock, pressure, temperature, light, or contact with another material. Major types of highly reactive chemicals are explosives, peroxides, water-reactives, and pyrophorics.

4.6 Isolated work is defined as work performed where there is no reasonable expectation of encountering or communicating with another employee for more than five minutes.

4.7 Isolated Employee – any employee performing work where he/she is beyond the visual or audible range of any other individual for more than five minutes.

4.8 Non-hazardous isolated work is defined as isolated work having a low probability of causing serious harm to an employee.

4.9 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus is a type of respiratory protection equipment that contains breathable compressed air. It is typically used by the firefighters and rescue workers while operating in areas of immediate danger to life and health, such as inside a building fire or a hazardous material spill response.
## 5.0 DOCUMENT HISTORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Made by</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31 August 2015</td>
<td>Initial Document</td>
<td>Lyndsey Beaudin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 September 2015</td>
<td>2.1/2.2 Removed work activities related to research from scope of procedure.</td>
<td>Prohibited Isolated Work Program Review Committee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 27 October 2015 | 1.1 Changed Policy to Practice  
3.1.7 Removed roof work requirement and instead state ‘Work requiring a fall arrest system, including aerial lifts that require fall arrest systems and on roofs with a slope greater than 4 feet vertical to 12 feet horizontal.’  
3.1.8b Added ‘Outdoor temperatures exceeding a Heat Index of 100°F or temperatures below -11°F’ | Prohibited Isolated Work Program Review Committee |
| 28 October 2015 | Changed 3.1.8 Note from ‘Their purpose is to observe the work and provide assistance should it be needed’ to ‘Their purpose is be in the work area and be able to summon emergency services should the need arise’. Indicates they can work alongside, not just observe. | Tim Fitzpatrick |