



Rapid Risk Assessment Tool



WorkSafeGuardian

Rapid Risk Assessment Tool

	Yes	No	Unsure
1. Do you know the person you intend to meet & their regular associates or family?	1	3	3
2. If not, are you able to find out about them from an alternative source?	1	3	3
3. Does this person have a known history of violent or unpredictable behaviour?	6	1	6
4. Is the area you intend to visit known to be unsafe?	3	1	3
5. Do all employees have a lone worker safety solution available to them?	1	3	3
6. Do all employees have a mobile phone?	1	3	3
7. Will another person be designated to accompany the employee?	1	3	3
8. Does the employee have training in de-escalation skills?	1	3	3
9. Is the employee trained to quickly break away from a violent person?	1	3	3
10. Is the activity you intend to undertake likely to trigger violent behaviour?	3	1	3

Combined total of all answers:

10 - 15: Low Risk 16 - 23: Medium Risk 24 - 33: High Risk





WorkSafeGuardian

Rapid Risk Assessment Tool - Further Explanations

1. Do you know the person?

The more you know someone the better you are able to make judgements about their character and possible future behaviour. The less you know about someone the higher the risk.

3. Is there a history of violence?

Past behaviour is the most reliable indication of future behaviour. If the answer is yes there should be no question of an employee continuing on alone.

5. Do you have a lone worker safety solution?

Lone worker safety solutions provide professional monitoring of lone workers. Most have continuously updated location information and the means of raising an alert. Furthermore, the best lone worker safety solutions have automated employee check-in services to ensure that an alert is raised for them if the employee is unable to do so themselves.

7. Will someone accompany them?

It is safer for employees to work in pairs. While this is not always practical it is important to consider the added risks of employees working alone.

9. Can the employee break away?

Having the necessary skills to quickly break away from a violent person means the employee has an increased chance to get to safety and raise an alert if needed. Therefore, decreasing their risk.

2. If not, are you able to find out?

The more information you have the better. If you don't know the person well, other sources of information can be helpful to determine the possible risks. For example, local police or social services.

4. Is the area unsafe?

Is there poor lighting, known gang behaviour, dark secluded areas, history of crimes, etc. Sometimes it's not the person who is unsafe but the area they are in.

6. Do all employees have a mobile phone?

Mobile phones are an essential piece of equipment for lone workers. If they do not have one, one should be provided for them and employees should be encouraged to have it with them at all times. Providing a smartphone with a lone worker safety app is the best idea, as this further decreases their risk.

8. Is there training in de-escalation?

This is an important skill for lone workers, proper training should be provided for employees. Effective de-escalation can resolve a situation safely.

10. Is this task likely to trigger violence?

This really depends on the type of work being carried out by lone workers. At many times, the job they intend to do is easy to complete and unlikely to cause violence or a dangerous situation. There are other times, however, when this is less clear. For example, visiting a mental health patient in their home.

The Rapid Risk Assessment and explanations are adapted from Brennan 2004 & 2010.

(Brennan, W. (2004). Lone Rangers. *Occup Health*, 56(9)/ Brennan, W. (2010). Safer lone working: Assessing the risk to health professionals. *The British Journal of Nursing*, 2010, 19(20).)

