



JNL Safety Alert #038

Incident: Lone worker out of contact during storm event
Date: 20170713
Reference: 20170713-WF-ROO-001

Details

- On the 13th of July an incident occurred involving a lone worker who was without radio contact in a storm event which was causing trees to fall and flooding roads.
The worker was advised in the morning not to enter the forest due to the adverse weather conditions and the crew he was visiting not being present, however he entered regardless and began work. All other crews in the area had either self-evacuated due to the conditions or were contacted and advised to leave the forest due to rising rivers potentially blocking roads.
The individual could not be contacted on radio or through phone and a JNL supervisor could not physically reach them due to road access being blocked with flooding. A neighbour was contacted, who had to cut his way into the forest to reach the worker who was unaware of the situation or that JNL had been attempting to get hold of them.
- ACOP rule 2.1.2 states that “no person shall work alone unless there is an effective means of getting help in an emergency”
- ACOP rule 2.3.4 state that “no person shall work in a manner likely to cause harm to themselves and others”.
 - By not having a form of contact the neighbour was put in potential harm as a result of having to cut their way in to alert them that they needed to leave the forest and the worker would have been unable to call for assistance if required.

Mandatory Requirements

All lone workers must have a form of communication on them and this communication must be in good working order and able to be heard when working in the field.

Workers shall heed the warnings of JNL staff and supervisors.

Significant Learning

The incident would have been avoided if the worker had heeded the advice to not enter the forest and had their radio on them while working in the field so that they could be contacted about evacuating the forest.

What's required?

- At least one form of communication at all times while working on the own in the field
- Be aware of changing weather conditions and reassess the risk when these change
- If told by JNL staff not to enter an area, do not enter.