

Helping to Protect the Worker in Canada's Oil and Gas, Forestry, Mining and Natural Resource Sectors

Business Challenge

Resource industries are under constant scrutiny for their work alone and check-in policies for lone workers. At the same time, companies' obligations to protect such workers with regular check-in and tracking practices are becoming increasingly strict.

Today, organizations need to maintain a reliable means of communication for lone workers in the field. Given the limitations on cellular coverage this requirement is particularly challenging for workers that spend substantial time working in isolated areas.

While the specific requirements may vary by jurisdiction, employers' obligations for employees performing hazardous work in locations where they have no routine interaction with customers or the public may include the following:

- Assessing their workplace and taking preventative measures to eliminate or minimize risks, especially when their employees are working alone.
- Providing reliable means for employees working alone to communicate with individuals who can respond immediately in an emergency situation.

Solution

The SPOT Satellite Messenger is a new and affordable GPS-enabled communications device that provides a simple way to address work alone and check-in requirements, and improve overall worker safety and morale.

With just the touch of a button, SPOT Satellite Messenger users can:

Alert 9-1-1	This button contacts an emergency call centre to help dispatch search and rescue teams with GPS coordinates. Signals will be sent every five minutes for up to seven days.
Ask for Help	For less critical emergencies, workers can press this button to send pre-programmed requests for help to their head office or supervisor's emails or cell phones.
Check In	Workers simply need to press this button to advise employers if they have arrived at a location and/or to keep them posted on where they are at specified intervals.
Track Progress	This optional feature allows users to send their location coordinates at designated intervals for tracking on a Web site using Google Maps™. In addition to tracking a worker's location throughout the day, it also helps employers and workers in uncharted areas to record safe routes for future reference.



SPOT Satellite Messenger

Heavy Construction Firm Equips Remote Workers With SPOT For Commercially Reliable GPS-Enabled Satellite Messaging

As a heavy construction firm in Springhill, Nova Scotia, workers with Ray McCormick and Sons Ltd. are often operating equipment in remote locations outside of cellular range. This spring, Manager Craig McCormick discovered the SPOT satellite messenger and immediately realized it was the ideal tool for enabling reliable contact with his employees while they were on the job.

"We were looking for a solution to help our remote workers stay in touch," he says. "SPOT is not only affordable it's a good tool for workers to notify emergency responders if they are in trouble. They can also alert us to less critical emergencies, such as running out of fuel or getting stuck in the mud. Given the low price and how simple it is to use, SPOT was a really easy choice for us."

Solution (con't from previous page)

With SPOT, employers can help minimize the risks for individuals working alone and enable more accurate and consistent check-in and reporting procedures. Given the low cost, SPOT can be deployed to multiple workers to improve reporting procedures and their overall safety.

SPOT generates different types of messages for a series of designated email addresses (up to five), mobile phones via SMS (up to five), or to a worldwide 911 facility, depending on the level of urgency. All signals include detailed GPS coordinates.

SPOT is also waterproof (to 1 meter for up to 30 minutes), floats and weighs just over seven ounces.

Options for handling communications for lone workers in remote areas include:

Portable satellite phone communications	While phones can be used to communicate with home base, the equipment can be costly and may not meet rugged demands of workers in the field. In addition, satellite phones generally do not convey location coordinates.
GPS mapping devices	These can help workers find their way out of remote locations, but commonly do not allow users to notify employers if they are encountering difficulties or are delayed, which can occasionally lead to unnecessary and costly search and rescue efforts.
Satellite-based beacons (ELB, PLT)	These emit signals to help rescuers locate employees but generally cannot be used by the worker for check-in or to communicate proactively with employers or rescuers.

Summary

Lightweight, rugged and reliable, the SPOT Satellite Messenger (SPOT) is the ideal choice for improving the safety of workers in remote locations at an affordable cost. It assists organizations to:

- Meet legal requirements for lone workers
- Maintain ongoing communications with remote workers
- Accurately pinpoint the location of lone workers and/or teams
- Initiate appropriate response procedures according to the type of signal received
- Enable rapid response to emergency situations
- Reduce communications costs, search and rescue costs, and help avoid potential time consuming and expensive legal issues resulting from non-compliance with legislative requirements

SPOT is priced at \$169.99 and a one year service subscription starts at \$99.99. For more information including where to buy, visit www.findmespot.com.

**In Canada Work Alone/Lone Worker legislation varies from province to province. Check local provincial government bodies for specific Work Alone/Lone Worker regulations for your region.*

Remote Alaskan Lone-Worker Saved By 9-1-1 Message From SPOT Satellite Messenger

In January 2008, Mike Brady, an outdoor worker working alone in a large and isolated Alaskan park, collapsed in minus 30 degree temperatures. Using the SPOT Satellite Messenger, Brady – who had just missed his designated check-in time – was able to press 9-1-1 on his SPOT Satellite Messenger and send his GPS location coordinates to GEOS International Emergency Response Center who immediately notified Emergency 9-1-1 Responders in the area. Immediately a helicopter and rescue team was dispatched to Brady's location, and he was safely transported to a nearby hospital.

"SPOT saved my life," said Mike Brady. "If my brother hadn't given it to me before I left, I might not be here right now." Worried about his safety while working in isolation, Brady's brother Terry bought a SPOT Satellite Messenger for Michael who agreed to use the device to send an "I'm OK" check-in message twice a week. "A year ago, devices like this were either impractical or unaffordable. Thanks to SPOT, I was able to give a life-saving gift that helped keep my brother alive," said Terry Brady.



SPOT Satellite Messenger is distributed in Canada by Globalstar Canada Satellite Co., a company that offers satellite voice and data services to commercial and recreational users in more than 120 countries around the world. Customer segments include: oil and gas, government, mining, forestry, commercial fishing, utilities, military, transportation, heavy construction, emergency preparedness, and business continuity as well as individual recreational users. Globalstar data solutions are ideal for various asset and personal tracking, data monitoring and SCADA applications. For more information, visit www.globalstar.ca.