Contractors Working on Remote Sites - Induction

This induction supplements the ‘Contractor Campus Induction Handbook’ and provides general information regarding the hazards contractors may encounter when working on remote or rural locations under the control of Sydney University.

It is important that the following hazards are included in Contractor’s Risk Assessments and Safe Work Method Statements and a copy provided to the CIS responsible person for review prior to the commencement of works. Please note the following is not an exhaustive list and additional hazards may be identified on site which must be identified and controlled prior to the commencement of works.

Remote work and lone workers
If the project requires workers to perform activities on a remote site and/or involves workers who will perform the works on the remote site unaccompanied safe work procedures must include provisions for emergencies and effective means of communication.

Emergencies
Safe work procedures must include provisions for developing and implementing emergency plans for workers on remote sites. Sydney University require contractors to document how control measures have been implemented for working at remote sites and/or in lone worker situations in a safe working procedure.

Overhead power lines
Prior to contractors performing works on remote sites it is important for contractors to identify if overhead power lines will be in proximity to where the works are to be performed. If contractors are required to work within proximity to overhead power lines, a risk assessment and safe working procedure must be developed including the control measures the contractor has implemented to mitigate the risks associated with working in proximity to overhead power lines. Please refer to the WorkCover NSW Code of Practice ‘Work Near Overhead Power Lines’ which is located on the WorkCover NSW website.

Underground Services
There are different types of underground services including (but not limited to):

- Gas mains and piping (sometimes under high pressure);
- Sewerage and stormwater drainage;
- Electrical wires; and
- Telecommunication and data cables.

Contractors must contact ‘Dial before you Dig’ and arrange appropriate underground services detectors (if applicable) prior to before works with may disturb the aforementioned underground services. A risk assessment and safe working procedure will identify associated hazards pertaining to underground services and document control measures implemented to mitigate the associated risks.

Asbestos in Soil
Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral and may be located on remote sites and locations wether in building materials or within soils. If asbestos is suspected on site please refer to the relevant Sydney University Asbestos Register for the area and if there is insufficient information on the Asbestos
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Register to confirm if the suspected area/building material does/doesn’t contain asbestos contact your Sydney University Project Manager to arrange for sampling to confirm the presence of asbestos. The work area must be cordoned off and works in that area must cease until results have been received to confirm the presence of asbestos.

Driving & Fatigue

Accessing some remote sites may require driving long distances which may have an adverse effect on contractor’s attention and fatigue levels if driving to remote work sites. Contractors are expected to include in safe working procedures implemented control measures to mitigate risks for contractors required to drive over certain periods of time.

Plant & Equipment

The use of plant and equipment on remote sites introduces a variety of hazards in the workplace. Contractors are required to complete a site specific risk assessment which is to incorporate the use of plant and equipment on site and the control measures implemented to mitigate the risks associated with plant and equipment.

UV Radiation

Working outdoors may require workers to sustain long periods outside under the sun. Contractors are expected to provide suitable control measures to minimise workers exposure to UV radiation.

Consultation

In some circumstances a Sydney University Project Manager or contact person may not be present on a work site as it would not be reasonably practical. A Contractor is expected to complete a site based risk assessment and safe working procedure prior to the commencement of their works.

Native Wildlife

On remote sites it is likely there will be a variety on wildlife on site which may be potentially hazardous. Some wildlife and fauna may be poisonous or have potentially fatal bites. Contractor’s site specific risk assessments must include control measures for mitigating risks associated with encountering native wildlife. Emergency planning may need to include transporting workers to the nearest hospital in life threatening situations.

Traffic Management

Traffic and road conditions will vary between remote sites. In some circumstances unsealed roads may be the only means of access to the site. Contractors must include traffic management control measures in safe working procedures and risk assessments prior to commencing works. In some circumstances depending on the scope of works authorised and competent traffic control personnel may be required.

Hazardous weather conditions

Remote sites are exposed to potentially hazardous weather conditions such as floors, extremes of temperature, field fires, excessive wind, high UV radiation e.t.c. It is important contractors have considered potentially hazardous weather conditions in a risk assessment and implemented control measures documented in a safe working procedure.