# Hazard Alert



#### **Incident Alert**

An attempted robbery and assault at a gas bar emphasizes the importance of protecting employees who work alone.

# **Hazard Summary – Working Alone:**

Employees who work alone or in isolation face an increased risk of confrontation and violence. Even incidents without physical confrontation, can cause stress and be emotionally traumatic for a worker.

Working alone presents additional risks pending location; type of work; public interaction; and consequences of an emergency, accident, or injury.

It is important to identify hazards, implement procedures to limit risks, and follow emergency procedures.

## What the Legislation Says:

The NWT Safety Occupational Health & Safety Regulations, Section 33. (1), states: In this section, "work alone" means to work at a work site as the only worker at that work site, in circumstances where assistance is not readily available in the event of injury, ill health or emergency.

The *Nunavut* General *Safety Regulations*, Section 14, states:

Where a worker is employed under conditions where he or she, if injured, might not be able to secure assistance, the employer shall provide a means of checking the well-being of that worker at intervals that, under the circumstances. provide adequate protection.

### Safe Work Practices:

Assess workplace hazards to minimize potential risks for employees working alone. Get their input for possible solutions and establish a check-in procedure that regularly accounts for their safety. Consider the following:

- Does your worker have adequate training and education to safely work alone? Do they need first-aid training?
- Does the worker have proper training on the check-in procedure?
- If injured or an emergency occurs, how does a lone worker get help? What if the worker is unconscious? Is there someone checking on them?
- Is the amount of time the worker spends alone reasonable?

