



Remote Location Safety Guideline

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Preface

The Australian pipeline industry requires responsible persons to ensure that potential remote location hazards which may be encountered are identified and that persons who may be potentially impacted are informed and prepared to cope with those identified hazards.

There must be a consistent, planned and considered approach to remote location safety on all projects and operational activities.

The following guidelines should be considered in both the project planning and operational phases.

1 Risk management and forward planning

The first step toward achieving a safe environment in remote locations is to identify the hazards and/or health and safety deficiencies which may exist and systematically manage those issues:

- As part of a formal safety assessment, the hazards associated with a particular location must be assessed to ensure adequate safety management planning is implemented.
- Process hazard reviews (ongoing) may be required as operational and environmental conditions change with time and seasons.
- Task specific risk analysis should be conducted (JSA, work method statements) to ensure compliance, understanding and effective management and allocation of responsibilities.
- Training for remote locations (induction, driver training, job specific training, etc) including differentiation of training and competencies required for workers and visitors.

2 Transportation and travelling to remote locations

Selection of suitable, well maintained vehicles and obtaining information about the area to enhance driver safety:

- Area maps, itinerary, contact lists, communications, spares, road conditions (gravel, etc), terrain, fauna, livestock, etc is potential information to source.
- Recommend check (internet or police) of latest road condition report available by area in each State, including recommended stops for fuel, water and supplies.
- Recommend preparation of detailed checklists of vehicle condition requirements and additional support equipment requirements.
- Minimum quantities of potable water – four litres per person per day.
- Refer to the APGA Vehicle Safety Guidelines for safety information regarding:
 - distances travelled
 - time of travel
 - speed control
 - driver skills
 - methods of transport
 - driver fatigue and driving conditions.

3 Communication Procedures

Communication infrastructure will ensure that persons in remote locations are able to contact readily and receive required information in a timely and efficient manner:

- Plan to ensure effective communication systems and procedures (telephones, email, satellite, VHF, UHF, etc) are established and operable.
- Contingency planning for communication breakdowns developed.
- Lone work procedures and emergency kits (EPIRB, communications, etc).

4 Emergency response procedures

The objective is to ensure that coordinated and effective plans, systems and appropriately trained personnel are in place to detect, mobilise, contain and recover from an emergency situation:

- Describe how emergency response is initiated and how emergency teams are activated.
- Specify command, control and communication arrangements.
- Identify the best method for evacuation of personnel in a critical situation (eg Flying Doctors, other medivac solutions).
- Develop plans in conjunction with relevant stakeholders (company, contractors, etc) and the local or closest emergency services.

5 Remote camps and stations

Planning for remote location construction infrastructure such as mobile camps and offices.

6 Extreme climatic conditions

Understanding the types of weather conditions that may be encountered in various locations around Australia will have a determination on the safety management initiatives of project or operational planning:

- Wet seasons, cyclones, extreme heat, extreme cold, etc and the effects that these conditions will have on the risk management planning for the project.
- The Bureau of Meteorology (www.bom.gov.au) provides information in an historical context to ensure adequate planning can be conducted for future activities.

For more information contact APGA 02 6273 0577 or apga@apga.org.au