

# Working Alone in Home Care

## Learning outcomes

After this huddle, workers should be able to:

- Identify workplace hazards.
- Describe how preparation and following procedures reduces risk.
- Recall how to report hazards, unsafe acts, conditions, incidents, or injuries.

## Instructions

- Collect and review your working alone policy, any related procedures or processes, and our additional resources.
- Read the scenario out loud. Then, using the guiding questions, facilitate a discussion about recognizing the hazards, reducing the risks of working alone, and reporting unsafe actions or conditions.

## Scenario

Sarah is a new home care worker, making her first solo visit to a client. Before arriving, she reviewed the client's care plan and communication logs, which noted the client's friendly but unrestrained dog. As Sarah enters the home, she notices the dog barking more aggressively than expected. Sarah also notices the client seems agitated.



## Notes to the huddle leader

- All home care workers should be familiar with hazards associated with working alone, and the requirement to promptly report concerns to their supervisor.
- The supplemental resources can be integrated into the huddle as needed and provided to workers as a quick reference.
- If you are unsure of any content within this safety huddle, email us for further explanation at [info@safecarebc.ca](mailto:info@safecarebc.ca)

## Safety Huddle: Working Alone in Home Care

Huddle leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Attendance:

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### Guiding questions

1. What steps should Sarah take to ensure her safety before she enters the home?
2. If the dog or the client's behavior becomes a concern, how should Sarah respond?
3. What should she do if she needs to leave?
4. Where can Sarah find information on workplace hazards?
5. How should she report her observations and any new safety concerns?

### Additional resources

SafeCare BC - [Point of Care Assessment card template](#)

SafeCare BC - [Working Alone eLearning course](#)

SafeCare BC - [Home Care and Community Health Support Pocketbook](#)

SafeCare BC - [Point of Care Risk Assessment safety huddle](#)

WorkSafeBC - [Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, Working Alone or in Isolation, 4.20.1](#)



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