



Steward Observatory has telescopes and equipment in remote and isolated sites. In addition, it has facilities that include complicated, large moving equipment such as that at the Mirror Lab, and it has processes that require the presence of hazardous chemicals. Because of these facts and the nature of our research, it is often advisable that some tasks which could be completed by one person, be performed by two persons in order to increase safety. No employee should perform any task alone if that individual feels the job cannot be completed safely without assistance or the presence of a second person.

In general, the Two-Person Work Rule shall be in effect under the following conditions:

1. Working from any external platform, scaffolding, or building roof. This would include scissor lifts and the like.
2. Working with any energized electrical circuits above 408 volts AC. The second person does not need to be qualified.
3. Accessing any parts of the telescope under hazardous weather conditions.
4. Working on moving equipment or machinery which is not designed with a seat or workstation.
5. Working with hazardous chemicals or in areas of very high temperatures.
6. Working in manholes or confined spaces.

There may be emergency or unplanned circumstances where it seems to be important to work alone, despite the above rules and guidelines. If that happens, and the person who feels that he/she must perform a task and is willing to perform that task without benefit of a second person in attendance, that person should first contact his/her supervisor and advise the supervisor of the circumstances. The supervisor may give approval to perform the task if both persons feel confident the task can be performed safely. Usually if this happens, there will be a direct, hand-held two-way radio or cell phone on an open line between the worker and someone who is in a place close enough to respond quickly, if needed. Video monitoring of some work situations might also be considered in some circumstances.

TIP

Bob Peterson and Cory Knop looked into several radio harnesses that can be used for conveniently holding two-way, hands free radios. The websites are shown below, if you wish to purchase harnesses for your employees.

Chiefsupply.com

<https://www.mallory.com/chief>

Supplycache.com

<https://www.supplycache.com/products/hands-free-radio-harness>

Amazon.com

<http://www.amazon.com/True-North-Stealth-Radio-Harness/dp/B0046C0HEC>