Green Cross for Safety® Awards 2022 Finalist | Innovation

Aware360

An estimated 100 million employees across North America work alone. This does not just include remote workers; in many jurisdictions, a person is “alone” at work when they are on their own, or when they cannot be seen or heard by a coworker. Everyday examples include field workers in the utilities industry, home health care and social workers, and long haul and last mile transport drivers. The oil and gas industry has some of the most at-risk workers, due to the nature of their work and their remote locations.

The challenge for employers is how to keep these mobile employees safe while protecting their privacy during their workday. The need for employers to do a better job of protecting lone workers is real and urgent. While the rate of serious injuries and accidents has declined over the past two decades, it has leveled off in the last five years. At the same time, the rate of workplace fatalities has flatlined with an average of 13 per day. Beyond a moral responsibility, employers also have a duty of care obligation to ensure their workers can perform their duties with the tools and training provided, and return home safely at the end of the day.

Crescent Point Energy is one of Canada’s largest light and medium oil producers, with resources in the Williston Basin in Southwest Saskatchewan and the Uinta Basin in Utah. Recently, the company grew its drilling inventory by approximately 1,000 net locations. Managing such an operation requires hundreds of people who often work alone, in many cases outside of cellular coverage.

Prior to working with Aware360, health and safety advisors at Crescent Point had little visibility into lone employees’ safety. Each worker was required to check in by phone in the morning and at the end of the day, but monitoring during the shift itself was informal and irregular. If someone missed a check-in, supervisors had no insight into why or where the worker was located.

Approximately 650 Crescent Point employees in the U.S. and Canada—including operations personnel who check wells or work in gas plants, maintenance personnel, engineers, and environmental workers—were identified as being at risk.

Crescent Point has a strong safety culture. As a progressive organization, when Crescent Point’s health and safety advisors looked for a more effective way to protect their lone workers, they chose an industry-leading, proven solution: SafetyAware from Aware360. The SafetyAware program uses a smartphone app, inReach satellite devices and 24/7 live monitoring to support lone workers.

SafetyAware is easy to use, ensuring workers stay focused on their job and are not distracted by the technology supporting their safety. Workers are not tracked throughout the day, but are monitored for any exceptions—such as a missed check-in or an emergency SOS. In this case, the 24/7 live monitor responds by following an escalation plan to ensure the worker...
receives the help they need, when and where they need it.

Given the frequency of working outside of cellular coverage, and the high risk to the worker during this time, the seamless transition from the smartphone app to the inReach satellite device is a critical part of the solution.

To start their day, workers simply sign on to SafetyAware via the app or satellite device and set their sign-off time. This initiates a monitored session by the 24/7 live monitor. Workers are prompted to check in on their device at configurable intervals throughout the day. If they miss their check-in, need assistance or have an emergency, the monitor responds within an average of 9 seconds to help the worker.

Crescent Point administrators have access to the SafetyAware Control Centre. The Centre includes a full suite of enhanced capabilities—including geofencing, broadcast messaging and custom mapping—to help manage the safety escalation program and deliver additional safety outcomes.

Geofencing allows Crescent Point to create a virtual geofence around a hazardous area, automatically notifying workers and supervisors if the geofence is crossed. Broadcast messaging delivers direct messages to one or many employees at the same time on the SafetyAware app. This gives supervisors the ability to communicate to workers a sudden change in weather or a high-risk event in their area. Custom mapping overlays field infrastructure, such as well sites, into the Aware360 mapping feature. This helps to show worker location on the map in relation to the sites they are servicing as part of escalation procedures.

Implementing SafetyAware significantly improved the safety of Crescent Point workers. The flexibility of device choice ensured workers were safe while inside or outside of cellular coverage. Digitizing their previous phone-in process delivered a safer outcome while allowing workers to focus on their job rather than worrying about missing a scheduled check-in or working outside of coverage. Crescent Point supervisors and administrators have better insight into the status of their workers, and the organization is now compliant with lone worker legislation, meeting their own duty of care mandate.

Consistent with their strong safety culture, Crescent Point’s leadership encouraged employees to utilize the SafetyAware solution outside of business hours, at no additional cost. This commitment to their employees had immediate impact. In Saskatchewan, a young
man and his father were trapped by a wildfire. SafetyAware alerted emergency services and provided the pair’s location. In the Rocky Mountains of British Columbia, an employee of Crescent Point was travelling with her partner when a landslide swept them off the highway. Although the worker was off duty, the SafetyAware app on her phone was not. The woman used the app to send a message that alerted emergency services. The leadership shown by Crescent Point executives to encourage the use of SafetyAware both on and off the job was truly life-saving!

Aware360’s PeopleIoT™ platform ensures the safety of employees by capturing real-time worker data on location, time, activity and condition. This data can be used to support operational decision making, improving the overall value in safety programs. The PeopleIoT platform provides an end-to-end solution that shortens implementation time frames and the means to integrate with existing customer systems. The PeopleIoT Connected Worker platform offers the most sophisticated, flexible and configurable Connected Worker solution on the market. Other models exist but require greater effort to implement, are targeted at specific verticals or are extensions on mobile apps. By connecting with over 70 device types and on any network type, Aware360 ensures a real-time response in any situation, keeping employees safe, compliant and productive.