

LONE WORKER SAFETY MONITORING SYSTEM COMPARISON GUIDE



Ok Alone Comparison Guide

Lone worker safety monitoring systems come in many varieties. This guide uses five criteria to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of the most popular ones. The goal is to give you the tools to decide which system will work best for your organization.

Five Key Ways to Evaluate Your Next Safety System

We scored each system against these five criteria.



Safety Policy

Your safety policy should be at the heart of your safety monitoring system. “Safety Policy” looks at how well the system implements your procedures and if it guides your team to take the actions you want at the appropriate time.



Ease of Use

Is the system easy to use? Here we looked at how easily you can implement the system into your everyday work. In other words, how intuitive it is and can it adapt to how you do things, or do you need to adapt to it.



Management Control

Are you able to control the system the way you want to? Do you get the information you need about what happens to your staff? Is the system a good management tool that enables you to control your business effectively?



Location Tracking

Can you locate your staff with GPS tracking so you know where they are and where they have been?



Cost

How much does the system cost to buy and to run? Do you have additional expense for hardware, training or set-up?

Five Safety Monitoring Systems

We evaluated each system against the five criteria summarised. Using a traffic light approach, each was given a score.

-  **Best**
-  **Adequate**
-  **Poor**

No Formal System

Rather than taking a formal approach, many organizations use informal ways to check on their lone working staff. For example, managers might stop in from time to time or they might ask the workers to report in every so often. Others rely on the buddy system, a system that relies on pairs of people keeping an eye on each other throughout the day.

Safety Policy

This approach lacks formal structure. You cannot be sure the action you want will be taken or the appropriate people informed.

Ease of Use

Having no formal system is easy to implement. It has no structure. Its lack of structure however, becomes a problem when in a crisis, people don't know what to do next.

Management Control

No structure or reporting on which management can act.

Location Tracking

No GPS based location tracking is available for your employees.

Cost

No cash paid to third party.



Informal Systems are cheap and better than nothing, but ask yourself if you want your team's safety to rely on such casual arrangements.

GPS Satellite Tracker with Messaging

The GPS device connects to satellites to relay the status and location of the worker back to base. On some devices, workers can send simple messages.

Safety Policy

GPS tracking systems are often too basic to follow all of your organization's safety procedures. For example, many GPS systems do not require users to check-in at set times.

Ease of Use

There is limited information sent to you from the GPS device. This means you need to adapt how you work to it. However, most devices are simple to operate.

Management Control

Little information provided. Typically, a table of check-in and help requests is all that is available.

Location Tracking

Location tracking is the core of the system.

Cost

Normally expensive contracts for satellite communications and GPS devices.



GPS satellite tracking allows you to monitor staff out of cell phone/mobile range. Limited and inflexible for other uses.

Call Centres

Workers call in when a check-in is due. If they miss a check-in the call centre follows up in accordance with your safety procedures.

Safety Policy

Call centres are good at following the safety procedures you give them. However, you don't normally get the flexibility to take different actions for individual workers.

Ease of Use

These systems are easy to use and familiar technology. Repeated calls from the call centre can become annoying. Consistent access to a phone is required.

Management Control

Whilst not under your direct control, call centres are usually quite good at doing what you tell them to do. To ensure you get that the results you want, you may need to invest a bit more of your management's time.

Location Tracking

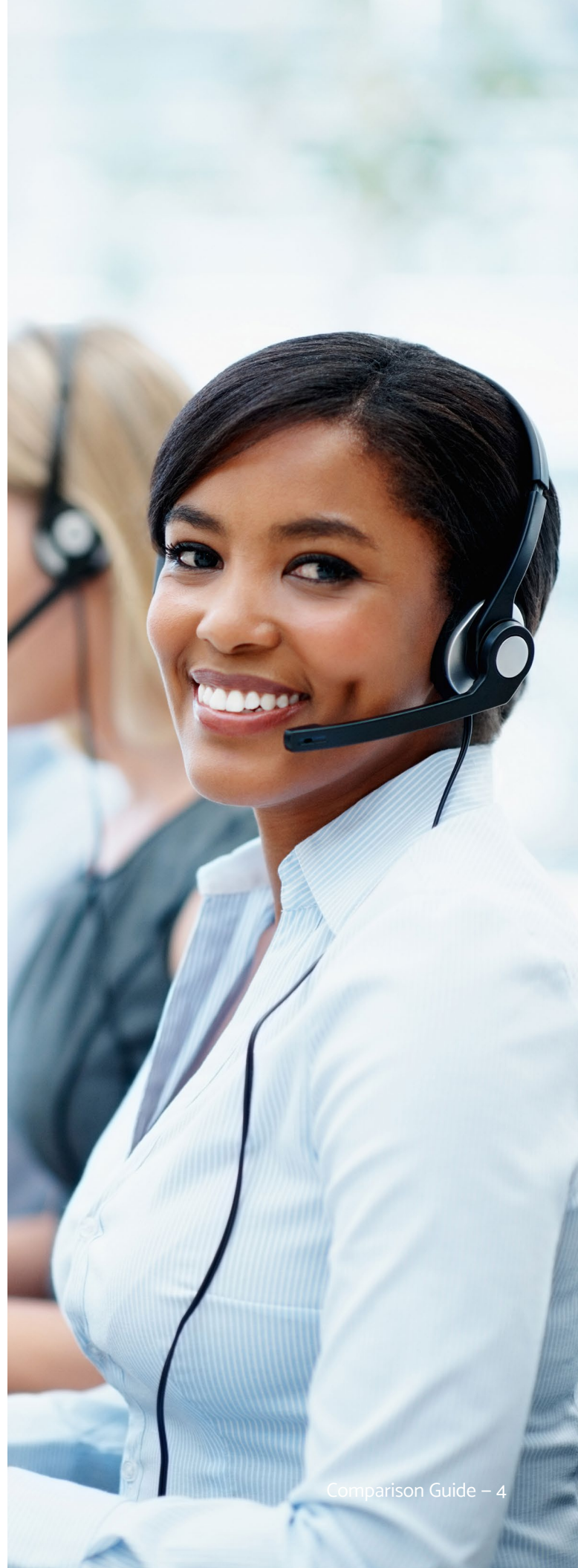
No GPS location tracking.

Cost

Call centres charge for their time and often for setup too. On their own, they are an expensive type of monitoring system.



Call Centres are easy to use and effective but often expensive. Repeated follow-up calls also tend to annoy staff.



Phone Based Systems

The worker typically uses a smart phone app to check in. Some systems check in by automated phone calls or by SMS text messages. Others offer a choice of check-in methods.

Safety Policy

Most systems check you in at regular intervals, the frequency of which can be set by you. Some have an escalation procedure included in their messages.

Ease of Use

Phone based systems are familiar to everyone. Some people may need to adapt how they work, but usually not too much.

Management Control

More advanced systems provide timely data and insights. Many don't. Suitability varies a lot.

Location Tracking

No GPS location tracking.

Cost

Cost is highly variable. The more features the system has, the more you typically pay.



Phone Based Systems use existing equipment and may be reasonably priced.

Custom Hardware

Often found in industries such as oil & gas, forestry and mining where staff work in high risk areas.

Safety Policy

In most cases, these industrial systems are designed to handle unique situations and a broad range of safety policy issues.

Ease of Use

They follow your organization's operating procedures and often offer multiple options for how to do things.

Management Control

Usually strong reporting and management information systems included.

Location Tracking

They build in GPS tracking in the custom hardware they sell.

Cost

Systems are bespoke and are very expensive to buy and maintain. Typically come with a high training and set-up cost.



A deluxe system for organizations with big budgets.

Ok Alone

Effective and affordable safety monitoring

Ok Alone is a monitoring system that is focused on implementing your safety policies. Workers check-in by smartphone app, phone call or SMS texts. Monitors receive notifications by email, phone call or SMS text. Missed check-ins or help alerts can be handled through our 24/7 call centre when required. You get GPS location tracking and with the right hardware, the option of satellite communications when you go out of cell/mobile phone range. Everything is controlled by you.

Safety Policy

Ok Alone fully supports your safety policies. You can set escalation procedures for the whole organization and for individual workers. Workers may have different monitors or procedures. With Ok Alone, people know what to do and who to call.

Ease of Use

Choose your way to check in: Smartphone apps, call into landlines, have Ok Alone call you, or check-in by SMS. Use Ok Alone's escalation procedure set-up wizard to create robust safety plans with a few clicks. See everything in one place.

Management Control

All critical information is available in one place, and can be accessed from anywhere. Easy to use tools enable you to set up your escalation policy, your monitors and workers in minutes. A 24/7 call centre stands in when your monitors are off duty. Good controls throughout.

Location Tracking

Location Tracking is available through the worker's GPS or satellite phone.

Cost

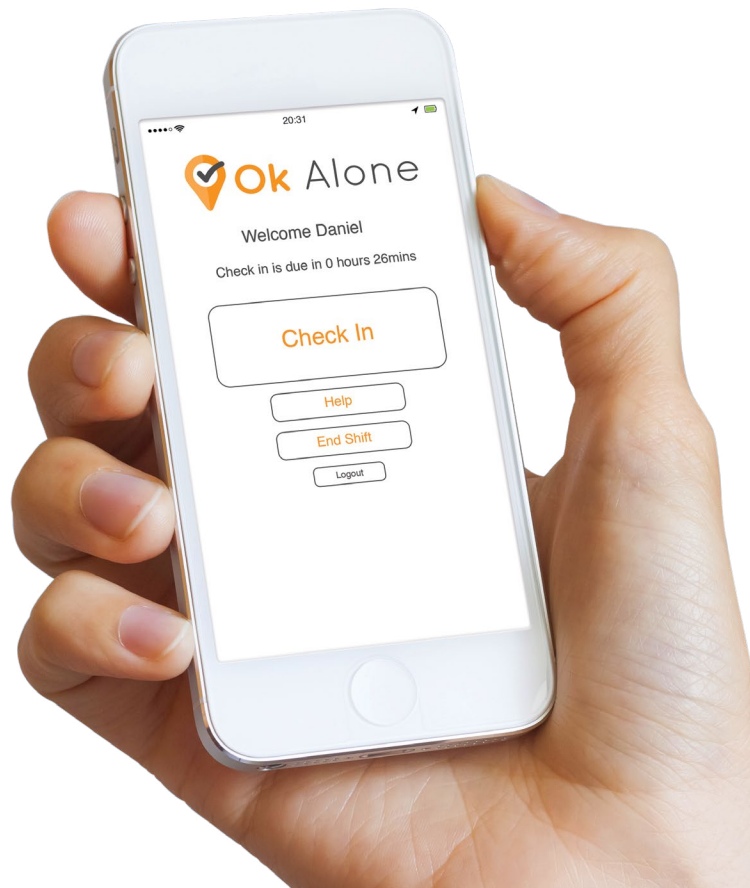
Ok Alone is often 5 to 10 times cheaper than the competition. Subscriptions start at \$5 per worker per month, and go DOWN from there with volume.

Ok Alone is the monitoring system that includes all the necessary features:

- Call centre only when needed with no set-up fees
 - GPS Location tracking
 - A choice of ways to check-in and handle alerts
 - All your information in one place and under your control
- Easy to create and implement escalation procedures



Ok Alone is an intuitive and easy to use system that costs much less than other approaches.



Sounds good?

Why not see for yourself how well Ok Alone meets your safety monitoring needs. There's no cost and no obligation. Simply go to www.okaloneworker.com/free-trial and register for our **Free Trial**.

Some Ok Alone Features



Control Your Call Centre Calls

Ok Alone offers you live monitoring when you need it. Our call centre handles your missed check-ins and help alerts when your monitors aren't available. You can turn live monitoring on or off whenever you like, thus helping you keep control of your costs.



Step by Step Guide to Your Escalation Procedure

Ok Alone helps you create clear escalation procedures by walking you through a step by step process. This makes creating a unique one for each work very easy. You can even use your standard company procedure as a starting point. Everything is designed to make you more efficient.



Designed to be Easy

Ok Alone Android, Blackberry or iPhone apps have a simple button press to check-in or ask for help. Anyone working alone can send a message back to base too. Any missed check-ins or other alarms are acted on according to your work alone policy. All this can be monitored from one place.

For further information about Ok Alone please visit www.okaloneworker.com

Why not try it yourself?

Start Your Free Trial Now
www.okaloneworker.com/free-trial



CANADA

info@okalone.net
www.okaloneworker.com

Toll Free Phone:
855-440-5892

Address:
Trusty Ox Systems Ltd,
732 Caledonia Avenue, Victoria, BC, Canada, V8T 1E5

UK

info@okalone.net
www.okaloneworker.com

Phone:
0131 610 2016

Address:
Trusty Ox Systems Ltd,
16 Forth Street, Edinburgh, Scotland, EH1 3LH