

Don't Forget Your ICT Workers

ICT lone workers can now enjoy fully compliant protection



Data centres, server rooms and communication rooms seem a safe working environment – not so, according to lone worker alarm specialists SBES.

Such areas often contain hidden dangers such as high voltages, trip hazards, confined spaces, heating and ventilation ducts and so on. Above all though, they are usually isolated areas where ICT staff are working alone, often at unsocial hours. Protection for lone workers working within such environments is of paramount importance, but is often overlooked.

Legislation does not prohibit lone working in a ... general sense, but companies and organisations must conduct a risk assessment covering the activities of all employees, including lone workers. Since the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act of 2007, companies and organisations can be found guilty of corporate manslaughter as a result of serious management failures resulting in a gross breach of duty of care.

SBES has developed a simple yet highly specified lone worker alarm system specifically for use within data centres, server rooms and communication rooms. The LifeSaver Micro Lone Worker Alarm System automatically alerts colleagues in the event of a worker collapsing or being rendered unconscious, ensuring an immediate response in the vital few minutes following an incident.

The alarm can be raised manually by means of a panic button, or automatically by a 'tilt' sensor should the lone worker become incapacitated. Upon alarm activation, the control system will automatically dial up to 10 telephone numbers, alerting the recipients that an alarm has been activated within the data centre. Simultaneously, a beacon sounder (normally located outside the data centre) will activate to draw nearby attention to the alarm.

The control system can be linked into access controls, in order to release entry doors automatically, ensuring quick access for emergency response teams. It can also be linked into building management systems for remote monitoring.

The system is not GSM web- or mobile-network reliant, so does not interfere with sensitive servers or data storage facilities.

Peter Swan, Managing Director of SBES, said: "Although employers are well aware of their duty of care, ICT personnel working in isolated areas are often forgotten about. ICT workers are a critical element of any organisation, and I would call upon all employers to protect them properly".