Working Safely Around Dogs

Dogs can injure us at homes, yards, worksites or public areas. Even a “friendly” dog may react to unfamiliar people, tools, noise or movement.

If the dog cannot reach you, the interaction cannot occur.

Primary Risks & Hazards to Spot



- **Missing or outdated dog warnings**
- **Unfamiliar people, noise or tools**



- **Dogs escaping doors, gates or fences**
- **Roaming or neighbouring dogs**
- **Exposure during work, tool collection or departure**



- **Sudden movement or territory**
- **Slips, falls or vehicle contact**

Where might this happen in our work environment?



At the gate: Stop and verify restraint. A collar, someone's arms or a person-held lead is not secure, even with a "friendly" dog.



During work: Keep issued or approved dog spray accessible. Follow required PPE and emergency/check-in arrangements. These do not replace secure restraint.



Tools and departure: Keep dogs secure until you leave. Report roaming dogs, missing warnings, near misses, bites and other interactions.

Where else?

Where could dogs reach us during our work or as we leave?

What can we check to protect?

1. **Have we planned the visit?**
   Review warnings. Call ahead. Confirm every dog stays securely restrained away from work for the full visit.
2. **Can any dog reach us?**
   Check doors, gates, fences and dog doors. Plan a clear exit.
3. **Will restraint stay effective?**
   Check through work, tools and departure. Release dogs only after you leave. If unsure, do not enter or leave immediately.

How will you verify the dog stays secure until you have left the site?

Social Infrastructure & Citizen Services

Your safety comes first

The SI&CS Health, Safety and Wellbeing Team is here to help.

You don’t have to work through a safety concern alone.

Ask for support when:

You’re unsure

We can help you understand a hazard and discuss a safer way to work.

Something happens

We can help with hazard, incident and near-miss reporting and next steps.

You need support

We can work with you and your supervisor or manager to address health, safety and wellbeing concerns.

Do you know who is your HSW Business Partner?

Stop if the work is unsafe

Pause the task and move to a safe place. Speak up if something feels unsafe or you are unsure.

Notify your supervisor or manager

Report hazards, incidents and near misses promptly, even if no one is hurt. Explain what happened, where it is and who may be at risk.

Do not continue unsafe work

Keep the task stopped until the risk is addressed and your supervisor or manager confirms a safe way forward. Ask for help if you are unsure.