



# Alert

Stop. Assess the Alert and take any required actions before proceeding

I know  
I choose **Safe**



Issue date: 13 September 2023

## Vigilance While Driving and Travelling in Remote Locations in NSW

Attention: All Staff Travelling or Operating in Remote Locations in NSW

### Summary

- Police have a growing concern that lone travellers / drivers in remote areas are being targeted in remote NSW and are potentially being watched and tracked by criminals.
- It has been identified that recently an Aurizon vehicle in one of our remote locations was being tracked, prompting this Safety Alert. The Police encourage this message being shared broadly to increase awareness and general vigilance.
- Be aware that the criminals **were not deterred** by the active monitoring stickers attached to the Aurizon vehicle.



### Important information

- Be alert to the tactics and dangers when travelling alone by car, especially in remote locations.
- Police intel outlined the following tactics that are being used and should be monitored by all workers when travelling by car, especially if alone:
  - *Zip tags/cable ties are being attached to vehicles (door handles, ute trays etc) to identify a vehicle where an occupant is travelling alone* - The number of zip tags is used to signify how many times this person has been seen travelling alone.
  - *Paper, paper towel, tissue etc put under door handles coated in substances* - If the substance is rubbed into eyes it can cause eye irritation and force the driver to pull over, putting the traveller in a vulnerable position if being tracked
  - *Shopping bags (or anything else) attached to the front of a vehicle* – When removing the item the person may be distracted and in a vulnerable position.
  - *Damage to tyres* – Forcing the person to pull over putting them in a vulnerable position potentially with their back turned while checking tyres.
- Police have confirmed instances have been identified at Nyngan, Warren, and Trangie in NSW.

### Action to be taken

- **Leaders**
  - Monitor vehicle fleet and check for signs of tracking. Report any signs of tracking or incidents immediately to Police.
  - Discuss journey plans with your teams and options for travel (for example, minimising where possible any alone travel).
  - Maintain regular contact with your team while they are travelling.

- Distribute and communicate this Alert to your teams (face-to-face communication where possible) and fill out the delivery verification form and store locally.
- Confirm with Operations/Maintenance Manager or Level 4 Manager that briefing has taken place using the Supervisor's Validation Form and store locally.

➤ **All Employees/Workers**

- Always conduct a pre-start on your vehicle before setting off. If you stop for a break or fuel, do a walkaround the vehicle if safe to do so.
- As part of your journey planning, discuss options with your leader to avoid travelling alone in vehicles for extended periods, especially in remote locations or alone at night.
- Remain vigilant and aware of your surroundings while travelling and keep doors locked.
- Share your journey plan and maintain frequent contact with an appropriate contact such as your depot, deployment, or other Aurizon employees.
- Where practicable, change your route and avoid travelling in the same pattern every day, especially in remote locations

<b>Contact Person:</b>	Alex Jensen, Safety Systems and Training Advisor
<b>Content Endorsed By:</b>	Bobby-Lee Norton, Manager Safety Systems and Accreditation
<b>Approved by:</b>	Ben Fountain, Head of Safety, Health and Environment
<b>Issue Ref/Alert Name:</b>	CSA-SHE-004-2023 - Vigilance While Driving and Travelling in Remote Locations in NSW
<b>Close-out Date:</b>	This Alert is to be removed from the noticeboard on 13 March 2024.

*Note:* By the closeout date, Managers and Supervisors should have undertaken to follow up inspections or audits to validate the actions have been implemented and continue to be followed.  
Print and post on your local noticeboard.

# Supervisor's Validation Form

## Vigilance While Driving and Travelling in Remote Locations in NSW

Issue Ref:

CSA-SHE-004-2023

Surname:

First Name:

Service Number:

Location:

Date Received:

Date Completed:

Company Name:

### Checklist

Yes

No

Comments – including further actions

Alert was discussed with all on-duty employees (and contractors where relevant)

Alert was discussed with all off-duty employees (and contractors where relevant) on their return

Alert is noted for communication to employees (and contractors where relevant) who are currently absent

Employees (and contractors where relevant) are clear on the content and intent of the Alert and any actions required

A copy of this alert has been provided (or made available on the external contractor portal) to all relevant contractor entities

Issues and concerns were resolved or escalated

Alert has been placed on the noticeboard

Immediate action has been taken where required

By the close out date, follow up inspections or audits will be undertaken to validate the Alert

Alert has been included on local Hazard and Risk Registers where appropriate

Within three months from issue of the communication any local procedures or registers should be updated to reflect information contained in the Alert where appropriate

Copies of this Validation Form and the Verification Form (below) have been stored in the workplace for easy reference and audit purposes

Supervisor's Signature:

(Mandatory)

Date:

# Delivery Verification Form

## Vigilance While Driving and Travelling in Remote Locations in NSW

Issue Ref:

CSA-SHE-004-2023

Business Group and Section:

Location:

Supervisor's Name:

Signature:

Date Received:

Date Completed:

Company Name:

Full Name

Service Number (If Contractor, Contractor Entity Name)

Date

Signature

By signing this form, you are acknowledging that you understand what this Alert means for you and your work. Keep this document at your workplace for easy reference and audit purposes.