

- ⚠ Critical point
- 😊 General principle
- 😬 Practical guideline

**Comments & suggestions welcome**

**Weather**

Before you get started it is always a good idea to [check the weather](#) and other conditions. In particular, ...

- ⚠ make sure to be in lightning shutdown if there is a risk of lightning, and
- ⚠ do not open the dome or run the fans when there is smoke and ash.

**Radios**

- ⚠ ALWAYS BE WITHIN EARSHOT OF A TWO-WAY RADIO TUNED TO THE MGIO REPEATER! ⚠
- 😊 This is not only for your benefit but also for the benefit of your colleagues in this remote location. You may be the closest to an injured person calling for help.
- 😬 In particular, if you are alone at the VATT, carry a LIVE unit with you at all times when taking the elevator, when in the dome, when you go for a walk outside, etc.
- 😬 If there is more than one person in the VATT building, one can be by the radio, and then the other does not have to be.

**Dome floodlights**

😊 The dome fluorescent lights are operated by an inconveniently placed switch. Avoid finding yourself walking in the dark. Use the dome floodlights operated from the control room. 😬 Prior to leaving the control room for the dome, turn on the dome floodlights (switch to the left of the door to the SW porch off the control room).

**Cameras**

😊 At all times, take advantage of the Hikvision and Axis cameras in order to monitor the status of the telescope. [Dome, Security & Finderscope Cameras](#)

**Porch doors**

😊 It is only too easy to lock oneself out when stepping onto the SW porch off the control room and the W landing off the dome. Do not panic if you do. Climb down the ladder and circle around to front door of the building.

**Intercom (Sqawk)**

Turn on the intercom (pressing the buttons marked Dome West and Dome South, depending on which area you want to monitor more closely; for general use, Dome West is better)

Note that the labels are incorrect. 😬 The unit marked West is in the South, and the unit marked South is in the West part of the Dome's lower level

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