

CFMEU

CONSTRUCTION



**If the on-site
temp hits 35°,
it's your right
to stop work!**

Know what to do when
things heat up!



Working in the **heat and humidity** is **dangerous**. On all CFMEU sites your safety comes first, but you need to know what to look out for and **stay safe**.

Workers should be alerted to possible extreme or excess heat conditions by the PCBU, Site manager, WHS Chair or Deputy Chair before commencing work or as soon as practicable after work commences.

Once the temperature reaches 35 degrees or a humidity level above 75%, there will be an orderly cessation of work and preparations for safe completions of critical tasks currently under way.

During periods of hot weather, if there are areas of the workplace that are below 35°, work shall continue as normal. Workers will walk a reasonable distance through the open to and from amenities, provided it does not pose a serious threat to their health or safety.

By agreement with the PCBU's and workers during periods of inclement weather (heat) the Saturday break roster can be applied to weekday work.

Where emergency work is undertaken, penalty provisions will apply in accordance with relevant industrial agreements.

Monitoring of Temperature

Temperatures shall be measured on site by a temperature gauge compliant to Australian Standards, and located as agreed by the WHS Committee.

Temperatures shall be monitored during the course of the day by the PCBU's, Site Manager, WHS Committee Chairperson and/or the Deputy Chairperson.

If gauges are not available - or malfunction, readings shall be taken from the nearest Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) weather station.

Humidity

Humidity creates a significant risk to worker health and safety. A trigger point for consultation will be when the temperature reaches 28° and a level of 75% humidity. *NB. Where work is required*

- ☀ Heat cramps
- ☀ Rashes (also called prickly heat)
- ☀ Magnifying of pre-existing illnesses and conditions.

Signs and symptoms of heat illness include feeling sick, nauseous, dizzy or weak. Clumsiness, collapse and convulsions may also be experienced as a result of heat illness.

Workers with these signs or symptoms need to seek immediate medical attention.

to be performed in additional PPE, action levels will need to be altered in consultation with workers, HSR's and the WHS Committee.

Concrete pours & emergency work

Employees shall not be required to start a concrete pour in inclement weather. Areas to be concreted **must** be ready to start pouring by **7:00am** on days where hot temperatures are forecast, or they will not commence. Concrete pours over 150m³ that are delayed will not commence after 11:00am without full consultation and agreement with all parties.

Upcoming concrete pours shall be an agenda item for the site WHS Committee, so they can view the weather forecast for the proposed day(s) and make recommendations regarding their suitability. Work should be programmed in such a way as to reduce the risk of heat stress. Sufficient numbers of workers should be engaged to allow rotation of workers in periods of heat.

Control Measures

Measures employed on site to prevent the effects of Heat Stress;

- ☀ Workers shall have easy access to cool, clean drinking water
- ☀ Caffeinated drinks should be avoided as they promote dehydration
- ☀ Mist busters will be deployed for dust suppression and aid in worker comfort in earthworks zones

- ☀ Reduce physical activity/tasks where possible
- ☀ Rotation of workers
- ☀ Work in cooler parts of the day
- ☀ Utilise Shaded areas
- ☀ Reduction of PPE, where permissible.
- ☀ Wear light clothing under coveralls
- ☀ Individuals should seek medical advice on the effect of medication being taken and communicate with the PCBU/First Aid Officer if they believe necessary.
- ☀ In addition, rest breaks as needed by an individual. Individuals should not be discouraged from taking needed rest breaks.
- ☀ It is expected mandated breaks of 'smoko' and lunch be adhered to.
- ☀ Training – (addressed below)

Incident Response/ First Aid

All heat stress incidents are to be reported to first aid and the PCBU's. Employees experiencing symptoms of heat stress must report to the first aid shed and receive medical attention. If unable to walk to the shed, normal first aid procedures will apply.

Heat stress – what to look out for

Heat illness covers a range of medical conditions that can arise when the body is unable to properly cope with working in heat. These conditions include;

- ☀ Heat stroke – a life threatening condition that requires immediate first aid and medical attention
- ☀ Fainting
- ☀ Heat exhaustion / fatigue

