Services Staff

Safe Operating Procedure

RISK ASSESSMENT

See Risk Assessment RASS02

PROTECTION AGAINST HEAT STRESS AND SOLAR RADIATION

Date Created  
28/09/2004

Next Review Required  
September 07

Approved By  
Mark King

Supervisor Conducting SOP  
Don Caldwell

Employees Involved in SOP Creation  
Staff & Supervisors

Personal Protective Equipment Required

Broad brimmed hats, sunglasses, 30+PF broad spectrum sunscreen, light weight long sleeved clothing and long trousers.

Before Work Commences

The Supervisor shall monitor the weather and heat conditions and schedule work accordingly. Refer to University Policy – Working in Hot Conditions and Local area guidelines for Working in Hot Conditions.

Where possible work that must occur in the direct sun will be scheduled before 11am or after 3 pm (daylight saving time)

If possible temporary shade will be erected if work is required in the direct sun.

When work must be undertaken in hot conditions cool drinks and adequate rest breaks must be provided

Basic Task Step(s)  
Work in direct sun

Hazards

Skin and eye damage from ultra-violet radiation
Skin cancer

Dehydration, heat stress, confusion, increased chance of accidents, collapse, heat stroke

Safe Procedures

• Cover up as much as possible with broad brimmed hat, sunglasses, long sleeved shirts, and long trousers.
• Coat all exposed skin with 30+pf sunscreen.

• When ambient temperatures exceed 30°C unshaded outside work is to cease and staff are to continue on tasks either in shaded areas or within buildings.
• When ambient temperature in shaded areas or buildings exceeds 36°C staff are to be redirected to tasks that can be undertaken in airconditioned areas.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic Task Step(s)</th>
<th>Hazards</th>
<th>Safe Procedures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work on hot days</td>
<td>Dehydration, heat stress, confusion, increased chance of accidents, collapse, heat stroke</td>
<td>• When the ambient temperature exceeds 36°C in shaded areas or within buildings the Supervisor shall direct staff to undertake tasks that can be undertaken in air conditioned areas. This can include undertaking administrative and planning tasks</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Working in direct sun where vital and/or emergency repair work must continue in hot conditions

Dehydration, heat stress, confusion, increased chance of accidents, collapse, heat stroke

• The work must be closely monitored by the Supervisor and rest breaks and cool drink must be provided.
• The less the movement of air and the greater the temperature, humidity, and rate of physical work the greater the number of rest breaks required.
• Temporary shade shall be provided if possible