Heat stress

Heat stress can be defined as the sum of heat generated in the body (metabolic heat) plus the heat gained from the environment minus the heat lost from the body to the environment. The risk of heat related disorders and accidents increases substantially with increasing heat stress.

Heat Strain

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3. Responsibilities:

This section outlines the responsibilities within the University for the implementation of this SOP.

3.1 Directors, Department Heads & Managers:

Each has the following responsibilities under this SOP:

- To ensure that pertinent supervisors and employees are notified of their responsibilities for work in hot environments;
- To ensure that procedures, equipment and materials appropriate for the specific work locations under his/her authority are provided to protect the health and safety of all employees;
- To ensure that all employees are given adequate supervision and instruction on the hazards of hot environments, the symptoms of heat related disorders and the standard operating procedures;
- To ensure that the components of this SOP and the Ministry of Labour Guidelines (Appendix A) are implemented in all facilities under his/her authority.

3.2 Supervisors

Supervisors must be knowledgeable about the hazards and standard approaches to work associated with the specific hot environments under his/her authority, the education and training requirements for safety while working in these environments, the appropriate standard operating procedures for all such locations under his/her authority, as well as the other requirements of this program. He/she has the following responsibilities:

- To identify all hot work environments under his/her authority;
- To ensure that employees are familiar with the hazards, symptoms of heat related disorders and the standard operating procedures for working in hot environments;
- To ensure that all employees act in accordance with the standard operating procedures for hot work environments;
- To ensure that appropriate equipment and materials for working in hot environments are used by all employees;
- To promptly report known or suspected heat related incidents to the Department of Environmental Health & Safety.

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engineering and administrative controls for working in hot environments. The preventative measures and controls implemented will be based on the specific environment and tasks associated with each individual department.

Under the MOL guidelines, rest in air-conditioned locations is a recommended engineering control method. On campus the following common locations could be used:

- MacKintosh-Corry Hall
- Stauffer Library
- Douglas Library
- Botterell Hall
- Biosciences Complex
- MacArthur Hall
- Chernoff Hall
- Beamish-Monro Hall
- Humphrey Hall
- Jefferey Hall
- Goodes Hall
- Queen's Centre

In the event that excessive heat requires a departmental shutdown, the Queen's University Inclement Weather Policy must be followed. The policy states "When weather conditions are severe, Department Heads may choose to permit employees of his/her area to leave early, without loss of pay. Departments are not to close without prior consultation with the respective Dean or Vice-Principal."