



# CFMEU

## QLD/NT



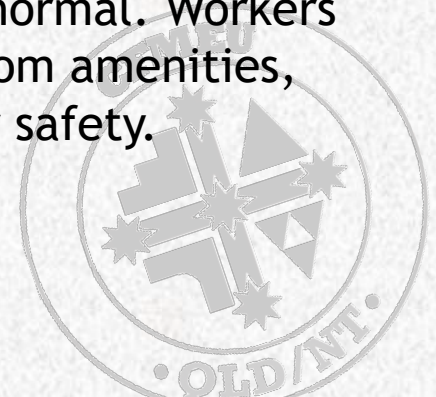
**If the on-site temp hits 35° or 29° and 75% humidity it's your right to stop work!**

The PCBU, Site Manager, and WHS Reps must alert workers the day before extreme or excessive heat conditions are expected.

Once the air temperature reaches 35 degrees there will be an orderly cessation of work and preparations for safe completions of critical tasks currently under way.

Once the air temperature reaches 29 degrees and a humidity level of 75%, three hours after normal start time 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° or 29° and 75% humidity work shall continue as normal. Workers may walk a reasonable distance through the open to and from amenities, provided it does not pose a serious threat to their health or safety.





## 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, WHS Reps and CFMEU delegates.

Temperatures shall be monitored during the course of the day by the PCBU's, Site Manager, WHS Committee, WHS Reps and CFMEU delegates.

*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 the day before where a temperature of 29° and 75% humidity is expected.

*NB. Where work is required to be performed in additional PPE, action levels will need to be altered in consultation with workers, WHS Reps, WHS Committee and CFMEU delegates.*



## Concrete pours and 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 150m<sup>3</sup> that are delayed will not commence after 9:30am without full consultation and agreement with all parties.



Upcoming concrete pours shall be an agenda item for the site WHS Committee, in consultation with the WHS Reps and CFMEU delegates, 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

- \* 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
- \* Utilize 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
- It is expected mandated breaks of 'smoko' and lunch be adhered to
- In addition, rest breaks as needed by an individual. Individuals should not be discouraged from taking needed rest breaks
- \* Training

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

## Incident Response/ First Aid

All heat stress incidents are to be reported to first aid and the PCBU's, WHS Reps and CFMEU delegates. 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 i.e. remove from worksite and take to a hospital for proper assessment.

## Incident Reporting

All heat related incidences are to be reported in accordance with this policy.

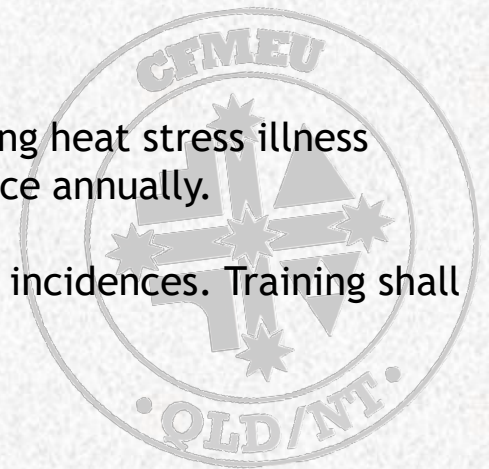
After any reported heat related incident the PCBU and the first aider shall advise the site Safety Coordinator who will notify the Chair of the WHS Committee and the relevant working group WHS Reps and CFMEU delegates immediately.

The WHS Committee shall also be notified of the incident at its next meeting, or more immediately if there is a risk to other workers on site. In addition, LTIs, discomfort or related complaints and absenteeism related to heat stress shall be monitored by the WHS Committee.

## Training

All PCBUs and workers on site will be trained in mitigating and recognising heat stress illness symptoms, in themselves and others. With refresher training to take place annually.

First Aiders need to be specifically trained in responding to heat related incidences. Training shall be provided by a suitably qualified organisation.



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

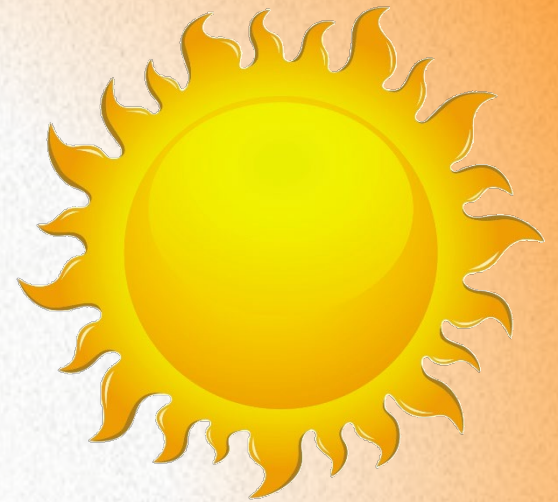
Signs and symptoms of heat illness include feeling sick, nauseous, dizzy or weak. Clumsiness, collapse and convulsions may also be experienced as a result of heat illness.

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





# Sun Safe Tips



**In addition to the effects of heat, skin cancers are a major concern for workers in the industry. Here are some tips to help protect against them.**

- Wear light coloured, long-sleeved collared shirts with a minimum SPF of 50+
- Wear a broad brim hard hat attachment including neck flap
- Wear long trousers or shorts that go to the knee
- Avoid heatstroke by ensuring clothing is lightweight, comfortable, well ventilated and does not restrict movement
- Wear sunglasses that meet Australian Standards and are safe for driving
- Apply a broad spectrum sun screen with a minimum SPF of 30+ and lip balm
- Use natural or portable shade where possible
- New workers at any site should be informed, trained and supervised in sun safe techniques
- All building workers should have their skin checked regularly by a doctor, regardless of age
- Monitor your own skin and look out for new or unusual spots, a sore that won't heal, or a spot or mole that has changed size, shape or colour.



## Extract from Coroners Report into the death of Glen Newport

***A Coroner has urged the construction industry to set a temperature level for halting heavy outdoor work in extreme heat in a bid to prevent worker deaths.***

The recommendation came as part of the coroner's ruling into the 2013 death of construction worker Glenn Newport near Roma in Queensland's southern inland. The 38 year old died in an ambulance after collapsing in extremely hot conditions on a coal seam gas (CSG) pipeline construction worksite.

Coroner John Hutton said Mr Newport's death highlighted "substantial deficiencies in the way the heavy construction industry managed heat exposure".

Mr Newport had been working for McDonnell Dowell, who were contractors to Santos on a liquefied natural gas (LNG) project near Roma.



## Extract from Coroners Report into the death of Glen Newport

Coroner John Hutton said “I was somewhat startled to learn that there is in effect no industry standard or ‘best practice’ in relation to the management of heat in the heavy construction industry.”

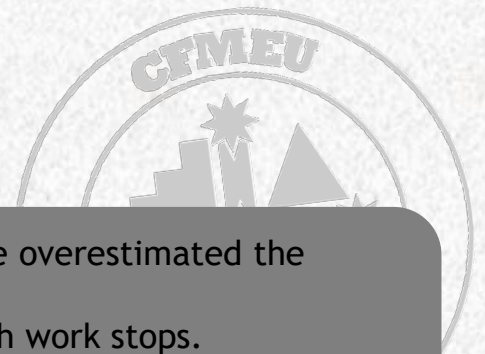
“Mr Newport was an extremely muscular and physically fit man”.

Mr Hutton also called for an industry-wide code of practice to be urgently implemented that included an agreed temperature threshold beyond which outdoor work must stop.

He also called for provisions for work to be completed at night where the daytime temperatures are too high.



Dr Liz Hanna from the Australian National University said research showed people overestimated the temperatures at which they could function as they would normally. She said that was a good reason to have a regulated temperature cut-off at which work stops. Particularly when people have got motivation to do so - so that could be pressure to finish a job, that could be pressure from colleagues to keep going (like) ‘don’t be a wuss’ and employers insisting that it ‘has to be done’.





## Extract from Coroners Report into the death of Glen Newport

**Recommendation 1:** The heavy construction industry should devise and implement an industry-wide code of practice in relation to the prevention and management of heat injury in the course of work. This code of practice should become the baseline against which operations can be assessed in terms of safety.

**Recommendation 2:** I recommend that any future industry-wide code of practice should be based on a quantitative assessment of climate, including an ultimate cut-off temperature at which work must cease. Qualitative measures may be implemented in support of such quantitative measures, but quantitative measures should be in place. It follows that work sites should have appropriate equipment and personnel to measure temperature and humidity.

**Recommendation 3:** I recommend that any future industry-wide code of practice should include provisions for night-based work in times when the heat of the day is expected to be dangerous.

**Recommendation 4:** I recommend that any future industry-wide code of practice should include measurable, objective criteria which would require a casualty to be evacuated to a hospital, and further, measurable objective criteria which would require a casualty to be immediately evacuated to a hospital.

