

what the person concerned knows, or ought reasonably to know, about the hazard or risk, and ways of eliminating or minimising the risk;
the

Introduction

Working in heat can be hazardous and can cause illness. The human body needs to maintain a body temperature of approximately 37°C. If the body has to work too hard to keep cool or starts to overheat a person will begin to suffer from heat-related illness. Heat-related illness is a general term to describe a range of progressive heat-related conditions including dehydration, fainting, heat rash, heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. Heat can be a hazard at JCU during indoor, outdoor and off campus work.

The most effective way to manage heat risks are:

- Scheduling work tasks to suit the conditions (including break schedules);
- Monitoring the environmental and people conditions;
- Maintaining adequate levels of hydration;
- Educating staff, students and Affiliates on heat management strategies and heat-related illness; and
- Identifying heat illness signs/symptoms early and taking immediate action.

Procedure

1 Duty, Obligations and Responsibilities

1.1 James Cook University

JCU, as a Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU), has a primary duty under the WHS Act to ensure health and safety of staff, students and Affiliates. To fulfil this duty, JCU shall eliminate heat-related illness risks, so far as is reasonably practicable and, if it is not reasonably practicable to do so, to minimise those risks so far as is reasonably practicable.

1.2 Officer

An Officer of JCU has a duty under the Act to exercise due diligence to ensure JCU fulfils its health and safety obligations under the Act. To satisfy this duty, Officers shall:

- Understand the hazards and risks associated with the working in heat for the operations under their control;
- Allocate and use appropriate resources and processes to eliminate or minimise health and safety risks arising from the operations; and
- Ensure that appropriate processes are in place to receive information on and respond promptly to heat-related incidents, hazards and risks.

1.3 Supervisor

For the purpose of this procedure, the term Supervisor refers to the person allocating tasks and providing oversight to others. Supervisors of students, staff and Affiliates are responsible for:

- Assessing the heat risk in consultation with team members as part of job planning;
- Providing oversight of staff, students and Affiliates under their control who are working in the heat;
- Increasing on-site supervision as the heat risk level increases;
- Identifying heat risk controls and sourcing resourcing for heat risk controls; and
- Ensuring all staff, students and Affiliates are trained in managing heat-related risk as required by this procedure and relevant to the role in the work.

1.4 Staff, Students and Affiliates

Staff, students and Affiliates shall follow the requirements outlined in this procedure to effectively manage heat-related illness risks, which may arise out of the conduct of the University's activities. In practice, this means:

- Reporting heat hazards when identified;
- Complying with reasonable instructions, as far as they are reasonable able;
- Participating in the heat risk management processes when required;
- Attending heat risk management training when required;

* TACO (Tarp Assisted Cooling with Oscillation) method – Wrap person in a tarp filled with ice slurry (or the coolest water available) and continually oscillate the water around the person. The TACO method cools the core by 0.2°C per minute, which is twice as fast as evaporative cooling by covering the body in soaked towels. This is a practical and effective option for field work.