

From: Central SHEQ Team

Date:

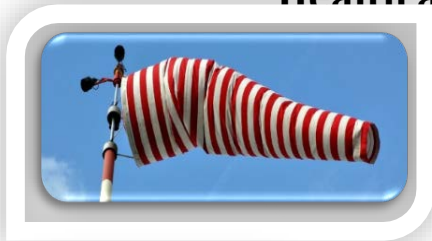
The Theme for May 17 will be: Weather Conditions and Considerations

Your Health and Safety

Our Environment

Quality Requirements

Health and Safety



When working outdoors the effects of the weather in the UK environment can potentially have a serious impact on an employee's health if the risks have not been considered or properly managed.

Risk assessments on workers health during different weather conditions is required and need to consider both personal and environmental factors. Personal factors include body activity, the amount and type of clothing, and duration of exposure. Environmental factors include ambient temperature, radiant heat and if the work is outside, sunlight, wind velocity and the presence of rain or snow.

Cold Environments

- Ensure the personal protective equipment issued is appropriate.
- Provide facilities for warming up with more frequent rest breaks.
- Encourage the drinking of warm fluids such as soup or hot drinks.
- Consider the nature of the work, can hazardous elements be delayed until better weather conditions.
- Educate workers about recognising the early symptoms of cold stress.

Windy Conditions

- Extra care must be taken during windy conditions.
- Personnel need to be warned about the dangers of the high winds. Where applicable, brief CDTT40-01 Working in Windy Conditions Toolbox Talk.
- If works are not properly planned, in windy conditions this could potentially result in worker injury, equipment and property damage.
- If the site is exposed ensure waste is stored in secure covered containers.
- Ensure good housekeeping to prevent windblown waste and escape of waste outside of the site boundary.

Hot Environments

- Reschedule work to cooler times of the day
- Provide more frequent rest breaks
- Provide free access to cool drinking water. Introduce shading in outdoor rest areas and working areas.
- Keep site roads clear of mud and dust – use a road sweeper and dampen down where necessary.
- Educate workers about recognising the early symptoms of heat stress.

Wet Conditions

- Wet conditions underfoot increase the chances of slips, ensure walkway surfaces are kept clean, use anti slip matting in doorways
- Ensure the correct PPE is available for wet conditions
- Keep site and access roads clear of mud to prevent silt runoff. The runoff could cause pollution of a watercourse.
- Check the Environmental Management Plan to see if the site is at risk from flooding - emergency response plan might be required.