



Professional Hygienist Perspectives on Extreme Heat Management in the Workplace

Note: This survey, which is being conducted by The University of Adelaide, is investigating workplace heat exposure and health & safety. Please answer each question by placing a (✓) in the box next to your preferred answer. Return the completed questionnaire to the box on the reception desk, and you will be in the draw to win a \$100 Coles-Myer gift voucher and a \$200 Christmas donation to an AIOH-sponsored charity. This survey is anonymous to maintain confidentiality. Your contribution to this survey is very greatly appreciated.

Part A: Your circumstances

1. Job Position:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consultant | <input type="checkbox"/> General Industry Hygienist | <input type="checkbox"/> Mining Hygienist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government Hygienist | <input type="checkbox"/> University Hygienist | <input type="checkbox"/> Military Hygienist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health and Safety Manager | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

2. Years of OH&S experience: _____

3. Which state are you from?

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACT | <input type="checkbox"/> NSW | <input type="checkbox"/> NT | <input type="checkbox"/> QLD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SA | <input type="checkbox"/> TAS | <input type="checkbox"/> VIC | <input type="checkbox"/> WA |

Given predictions of increased hot weather and the likelihood of more frequent extreme heat events in Australia we would like to ascertain your thoughts on heat stress in the workplace

Part B: Your perspectives

4. On a scale of 1-5 with 5 being the most concerned, how concerned are you about extreme heat resulting in increased hazards in the workplace?

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Do you agree or disagree that extremely hot weather due to changing climate presents a future challenge for workplace heat management?

- Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

6. Do you know of any organizations planning for increased frequency of extremely hot weather events?

- Yes No

7. In your experience have workers ever expressed concern about heat in your workplace (or workplaces you consult in) during very hot weather?

- Yes No

If yes, how often?

- Seldom Sometimes Often Always

8. In the last five years, have you had to investigate the circumstances around injuries or illnesses that could be attributed to extreme heat (air temperature greater than 38°C)?

- Yes No

If yes, how many times?

- Once Two to five times More than five times Not sure

9. What measures are adopted in the workplace or workplaces that you consult in during very hot weather?

(Select all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provision of cool drinking water | <input type="checkbox"/> Electric fan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Broad brimmed hats supplied | <input type="checkbox"/> Shady rest area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stop outdoor work if the temperature is extreme | <input type="checkbox"/> Central cooling system or air conditioning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rescheduling work time | <input type="checkbox"/> Heat stress related training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ | |

10. Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the measures currently adopted for reducing the risk of heat illnesses and injuries in the workplace or workplaces that you consult in during very hot weather?

- Strongly satisfied Satisfied Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied Dissatisfied Strongly dissatisfied

11. Do you think there is a need for more training about working in very hot weather in your workplace or workplaces that you consult in?

Yes → Which aspects should be strengthened? _____

- No → Because? (Select all that apply)
- ▶ Training is generally adequate.....
 - ▶ I don't think it is a serious problem....
 - ▶ Other(specify)_____
- Not sure

12. Is there a hot weather plan or heat stress policy in your workplace or any workplaces that you consult in?

- Yes → which industrial sectors? _____
- No
- Not sure

13. Do you think there should be more guidelines or regulations for reducing the risk of heat-related illnesses and injuries in very hot weather applicable to your workplace or workplaces that you consult in?

- Yes
- No → Because? (Select all that apply)
- ▶ There are enough regulations.....
 - ▶ I don't think it is a serious problem...
 - ▶ I haven't thought about it.....
 - ▶ Other _____
- Don't know

14. Do you know of companies that have recently made changes to maintain OHS in work environments where extreme heat may become more common?

- Yes No

If yes, what changes have been made? _____

15. Do you intend to alter your recommendations to management or companies due to the likelihood of increased hot weather?

- Yes
- No → Because? (Select all that apply)
 - ▶ I don't think it is a serious problem.....
 - ▶ The timescale is too long.....
 - ▶ I haven't thought about it.....
 - ▶ Other _____
- Not sure

16. What do you foresee as potential barriers for the prevention of heat stress in workplaces?

(Select all that apply)

- Lack of awareness
- Lack of training
- Lack of management commitment
- Lack of financial resources to bring in engineering controls
- Lack of specific heat-related guidelines and regulations
- Low compliance and implementation of heat stress prevention programs
- None
- Other _____

17. Do you have any further recommendations or suggestions for the prevention of heat-related illnesses and injuries in Australian workplaces?

Thank you very much for taking time to complete the questionnaire.

Please return the completed questionnaire to the box on the reception desk by 3:00 pm on Tuesday (4th December), you will be in the draw to win a \$100 prize and \$200 for an AIOH sponsored charity.

If you have any queries or interest in this research, please contact me at jianjun.xiang@adelaide.edu.au

