

Section 5C: Workplace Health and Environmental Practices

Policy #4:	Heat Stress Prevention
Effective Date:	December 15, 2016
Last Revision Date:	Original Policy

I. Purpose

The Town of Mooresville's Heat Stress Prevention Plan is designed to protect employees against the risks of heat induced injuries and illnesses. The human body works optimally at a core internal temperature of 98.6° F. Heat related disorders begin as the body's internal temperature rises. Heat stress prevention will be accomplished through identification, training, and the application of effective and appropriate engineering controls, administrative controls, and personal protective equipment. While there are no specific laws and regulations governing heat stress, the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) publish industry guidelines, which have been adopted for the assessment of heat exposures. This policy does not provide rationale for employees to stop performing their required work duties. It does however provide some preventive and remedial measures to better protect Town employees.

II. Scope

This policy applies to all Town of Mooresville employees whose job duties expose them to environmental risk factors that could place them at risk of heat-related illness. Heat stress hazards are among the most neglected health hazards in the workplace. In the United States, heat stress exposure accounts for thousands of illnesses and hundreds of deaths every year. These illnesses are avoidable when employees are trained in appropriate actions to take before, during, and after working in hot conditions.

III. Legislation/References

- ❖ 29 CFR 1910.132, Personal Protective Equipment incorporated by reference under the North Carolina Administrative Code (NCAC) 07F .0104
- ❖ American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists TLV Handbook, 1999
- ❖ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Public Health Service. Centers for Disease Control. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. 1986. Criteria for a recommended standard-occupational exposure to hot environments. Publication No. 86-113
- ❖ Principles of Industrial Hygiene, National Safety Council Third Edition, 1993