



Volunteer Group Mission Statement

The working group will develop new tools and educational materials for thermal stress, with a focus on occupational heat exposure. The heat safety app, such as a WBGT-based risk tool, is one such product that has been deemed a top priority for heat stress.

Goals and Objectives

Occupational heat exposure increases the risk of heat illness and injuries and decreases worker performance. According to OSHA, heat is the leading cause of death among all weather-related phenomena. A recent study suggests a 1% increased risk of occupational injury for every 1°C increase in temperature above reference values.

OSHA recently published a new enforcement initiative on heat-related hazards, the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) for Heat Injury and Illness Prevention in Outdoor and Indoor Work Settings, and has empowered a NACOSH heat injury and illness prevention workgroup to assist in this effort. State agencies such as California, Washington, and Oregon have increased legislative efforts to address heat hazards.

The ACGIH heat stress TLV, based on Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) has been the industrial hygiene standard for heat illness prevention, however, the real-world application is challenging, especially for small businesses. In an attempt to simplify heat stress guidance, NIOSH and OSHA developed the AIHA heat safety app. The heat index measure may not estimate overall risk as effectively as the WBGT, especially at higher metabolic work rates. To this end, it has been recommended that this working group investigate, develop and validate a new tool that would benefit employers, including small businesses, independent contractors, construction, and agricultural workers, among others.

Annual Business Meeting

Sunday, May 21
5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. (MT)
South Mountain Room
Phoenix Sheraton

Monthly Meeting (Virtual)

2nd Friday of the Month
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. (ET)

[Join our meeting](#)

Thermal Stress Working Group

<http://aiha.info/thermals-tressworkinggroup>

Current Projects

Viewing updates to NIOSH/OSHA heat stress app

Group Dynamics

There is no limit on the size of this working group. A chair, vice-chair, and secretary will be selected to serve as the leadership of the group, with officer rotations to commence at the close of AIHce. At that time, the chair will serve as the past chair, vice-chair to chair, secretary to vice-chair, etc. The secretary position is an elected position and will be implemented during the second year of this working group. While not required, the selection of a secretary-elect will ensure a smooth transition.

Participation is NOT limited to AIHA membership. We envision input from other volunteer groups whose interests align with the areas of concern noted above, as well as allied associations (e.g., American Geophysical Union, NOAA, NIOSH, OSHA, ACGIH)

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