

EFFECTS OF TEMPERATURE ON SAFETY BEHAVIOUR

The thermal environment at the workplace can have a direct impact on safe work behaviour. Safe work behaviour will be compromised at very cold and very hot temperatures. This effect was studied in detail by Ramsey et al. (1983), who established that workplace temperature and safe behaviour followed a U-shape relation. It was established that the minimum unsafe behaviour occurred in the preferred temperature zone of 17°C to 23°C wet-bulb globe temperature (WBGT). The unsafe behaviours rate increased when ambient temperatures increased or decreased from this range.

This is an important aspect of a thermal exposure assessment. Hygienists should appreciate that the thermal environment can not only cause physiological stress but also results in psychological effects such as an increased rate of unsafe work behaviour.

Source: Ramsey, J.D., Burford, C.L., Beshir, M.Y. and Jensen, R.C., 1983. Effects of workplace thermal conditions on safe work behavior. Journal of Safety Research, 14(3), pp.105-114.

[#Safety](#) [#Behaviour](#) [#Thermal](#) [#Exposure](#) [#IH](#) [#OH](#)

