

# WORKING OUTSIDE IN SUMMER



## Keeping workers safe when working outside in summer

Working outdoors in summer involves work health and safety risks, including from heat, sun exposure, adverse weather conditions and bushfires.

These risks are not just ‘part of the job’. Persons conducting a business or undertaking (such as employers) have a legal duty to eliminate or minimise the risks of working outdoors as much as they reasonably can.



**Scan the QR code**  
Find out more on the Safe Work Australia website: [swa.gov.au/safety-topic/hazards/working-outside](https://swa.gov.au/safety-topic/hazards/working-outside)

### Manage the risks

#### Heat and sun exposure



- The best way to manage risks is to eliminate them. Plan work so it can be done indoors, in the shade, or during cooler parts of the day.
- Employers must provide workers with access to plenty of drinking water.
- Employers must provide workers with personal protective equipment. In the case of outdoor work, this could mean long sleeved clothing, sunglasses, sunscreen and a hat.
- Employers should provide workers with regular breaks.
- The type of work being done can also increase the risks from working in heat. For example, Australian roofs regularly exceed 60 degrees in summer.

#### Adverse weather conditions



- Employers should monitor the Bureau of Meteorology for information on adverse weather including heat waves, strong winds, heavy or sudden rain, floods and lightning.
- Employers must have an emergency plan outlining what to do if there is an emergency at the workplace.
- Workers should be reassigned to indoor duties if adverse weather occurs.

#### Bushfires (including bushfire smoke)



- Monitor air quality, fire danger ratings and bushfire warnings issued by your local authorities.
- Relocate work indoors or away from at-risk or bushfire prone areas.
- Use P2/N95 masks and eye protection if workers must work in bushfire smoke.