



ADAPTING WORKPLACES TO CLIMATE CHANGE: WORKPLACE SAFETY AND SUSTAINABILITY

BELOW ARE PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS OF THE IMPACT ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY BY CLIMATE CHANGE AND EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

Climate change affects health and safety in two main ways:

- through the changing severity and frequency of existing climate impacts; and
- the emergence of new and unanticipated climate impacts will emerge where such weather events did not exist before.

Occupational risks exacerbated by climate change include heat stress, ultraviolet radiation, poor air quality, major industrial accidents, injuries or fatalities from extreme weather events, increase in vector-borne diseases, increased exposure to chemicals or pathogens, and mental health consequences.



TAKING ACTION

- Identify climate hazards and assess workplace, work type and worker vulnerability to those hazards such as heatwaves, floods etc.
- Incorporate climate considerations into risk assessments.
- Understand the impact of climate on day-to-day tasks and adapt work practices.
- Invest in training workers on climate-specific safety protocols and appropriate use of personal protective equipment in different conditions.

THE WAY FORWARD

Businesses can protect workers in a changing world by integrating climate considerations into every aspect of workplace health and safety, from risk assessments to emergency plans.

Organisations should adopt a self-directed approach to increase operational resilience. Abiding by or reacting to existing legislation may not be sufficient to prevent and mitigate climate-related risks and safeguard worker wellbeing.



For more information, please contact **Kate Collier, Partner**
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Alternatively, visit our Occupational Health & Safety website page [here](#).

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