

Challenge

- A large multi-national manufacturer required heat stress monitoring for their teams working in close proximity to an aluminium smelter.
- Working in an extremely hot environment poses significant risks of heat-related illness which can impair multiple organs and in severe cases, lead to death.
- Research at another aluminium smelter facility found that employees were exposed to temperatures as high as 56.7°C/134°F (Dang and Dowell, 2014).
- Team members work long shifts in this potentially dangerous environment so fatigue monitoring was also required to reduce the risk of accidents.

Results

- Participants were able to wear the device while wearing their standard personal protective equipment and completing their usual tasks.
- Elevated core body temperature (CBT) was observed in employees working in close proximity to the aluminium smelter. This resulted in 3 red alerts for CBT, equating to 1.16% of the total data collected. 1 red alert for fatigue was triggered, representing 0.41% of the total data collected.
- These alerts highlight the importance of monitoring for heat illness and fatigue in these environments.

Final Summary

- With real-time data analysis via the easy-to-use Bodytrak Platform, supervisors were able to identify all alerts received by team members. The Bodytrak audio prompts ensured that the wearers would also receive a notification.
- Identifying red alert periods ensures the supervisor and user can take immediate action and necessary intervention to reduce the risk of heat-related illness or an occupational incident.



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