

Challenge

- Following a recent heat stress fatality, a trial was conducted with a mining company in the mining sector in the Middle East to assess the suitability of the Bodytrak system for lone working and incident prevention.
- Team members require physiological monitoring as they are exposed to high levels of noise and heat at remote drilling sites. In addition there is lone working and risk of fatigue travelling to sites.
- While physical workload is moderate, workers are exposed to hot ambient temperatures for long periods with little opportunity for respite.
- It was important to have a system where vital signs could be monitored in real-time and notifications received by both supervisors and users when there was an increased risk of heat-related so that appropriate action could be taken.

Results

- A raised core body temperature (CBT) was observed in all team members, showing an increased risk of heat-related illness. Given the trial occurred in the coolest season, it's likely the heat stress level would have been even greater in the summer months.
- Towards the end of some of the sessions CBT increased at an elevated rate. It is likely the users experienced an increased risk of heat-related illness than was measured. This indicates the importance of monitoring over an entire working day until the user has left the hot environment and completely recovered.
- Audio prompts and notifications were deployed to demonstrate essential notifications in the event alerts are raised in the future.

Final Summary

- With real-time data analysis, supervisors were able to access the Bodytrak Platform to observe and respond to alerts received by team members in remote locations.
- The users were receptive to implementing the technology and understood the principle aim was to protect them while they worked in hot conditions.
- There was good adherence by the team with users wearing the device for more than 8 hours while working.



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