

## **MMT Observatory Closure Policy**

February 5, 2010

Weather can change suddenly at the summit of Mount Hopkins and must be checked before opening and monitored during observations. The telescope operator (T.O.) has the responsibility for determining whether to open, and for closing should conditions warrant. The operator may choose to close the facility at any time because of weather or other situations such as power failure, equipment failure, injury, fire or other emergency. This policy serves as a guideline; however, the operator has final authority in the decision to open or close.

This policy replaces all previous policies and all future revisions will require approval by the director of the MMT.

The MMTO shall be open and remain open unless:

- A) Lightning: there is imminent threat of lightning.
- B) Precipitation: there is an imminent threat of liquid precipitation or melting snow from the roof striking the optics. Conditions shall be assessed from the chamber by opening the chamber approximately 2m with the mirror cover closed.
- C) Wind: for f/5 and f/9: the sustained winds exceed 40 mph or gusts exceed 50 mph;  
for f/15: the sustained wind is 35 mph and gusts exceed 40 mph.
- D) Debris: wind-blown dust, ash, or smoke can damage the optics.
- E) Condensation on optics: the average front plate temperature of the primary is less than 0.5 C above the chamber dew point temperature. Relative humidity alone shall no longer be used for closure criteria.
- F) Other weather conditions: The operator shall note in the operator log any other specific weather related conditions to warrant closure.
- G) To appeal any aspect of this policy, feel free to contact the MMT director.

### Additional instrument restrictions

Hecto: Whenever the Hecto fiber positioner is mounted on the telescope, the ambient air temperature must be above 6.7 C (20°F) to operate instrument robots or change the telescope elevation.

If you dispute a closure decision, please make a note in your observer's report, or contact the observatory director.

**PLEASE DO NOT ARGUE WITH THE OPERATOR.**