

Closure Criteria

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The decision to open or close the telescope is the responsibility of the Telescope Operator(s). They are the senior staff member(s) on-site and responsible for the facility. Their decision will be based on their experience at LDT and judgement of the site conditions, **and is final**.

The guidelines given below are there to help them make their decisions, and to give you a sense of what kinds of things they are considering, but they are guidelines, not hard and fast rules. Safety of people and the equipment is an overriding concern.

Here are the basic criteria that your TO will consider when opening or shutting down operations:

Environmental Factor	Limits
Safety	If the TO judges that it is unsafe to operate.
Humidity	ambient relative humidity 85% M1 relative humidity 80% condensation in the dome

Wind/Smoke/Debris	sustained wind 11 m/s (~25 mph) gusts 16 m/s (~36 mph) strong smell of smoke outside &/or high particulate counts
Precipitation	ANY visible/measured precipitation in the area
Fog	Visible fog on-site, this may require a flashlight at night.
Ambient Temperature	> 30°C or < -20°C

The TO will judge when it is safe to reopen the telescope, generally at least 10 minutes after conditions have become acceptable again.