

# 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.**