HOW WEATHER AFFECTS HEAT LOSS

WIND CHILL – If there were no breeze at all you could remain lightly clad and comfortable at 0° F for long periods of time. But let the air stir even slightly, and the calories or heat energy produced by your body will rapidly leave.

WATER CHILL – The thermal conductivity of water (or ice) is 20 times as great as that of still air. This means that wet clothing can extract heat from your body much faster than clean dry clothing. When your clothing gets wet, it no longer provides an insulating layer of warm air next to the skin. Instead, it rapidly conducts heat away from your body and dissipates it into the environment. Wet clothing is like a wick. If a cold wind is blowing, or if you are not generating extra heat by strong exertion, this "wicking action" or "water chill" dissipates heat much more rapidly than your body can produce it. It is worth noting that the wicking action of wet wool is considerably less than that of other fabrics. Wool provides some warmth even when damp.

