

## INCLEMENT WEATHER GUIDELINES FOR OUTDOOR EVENTS

“Inclement weather” is a generic term often used to describe weather conditions that are either unsafe or undesirable for outdoor events. Inclement weather can come in many different forms, as outlined below. This guideline is intended to be used as a tool to help you identify when forecasted or actual weather conditions require cancelling or postponing an event.

NOTE: This checklist addresses only the most unsafe weather conditions. Your own event guidelines may dictate actions for other weather conditions that may be undesirable (e.g. rainy, too warm, too cold).

Should any of the following triggers occur or become forecasted for the time of the event, the event should be cancelled or, when appropriate, temporarily postponed for safety reasons. Temporarily postponing an event means just waiting a few minutes until the immediate hazard passes, if your schedule allows.

*When in doubt about what to do, consult with **FSU Emergency Management** for decision support.*

| ADVANCED NOTICE TIMEFRAME | TRIGGER TO CANCEL EVENT:   | TRIGGER TO TEMPORARILY POSTPONE EVENT:   |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| 0 - 48 Hours              | <input type="checkbox"/> Hurricane or Tropical Storm Watch<br><input type="checkbox"/> Winter Storm Watch  |  |
| 0 - 24 Hours              | <input type="checkbox"/> Heat Advisory or Excessive Heat Watch<br><input type="checkbox"/> High Wind Watch<br><input type="checkbox"/> Winter Weather Advisory<br><input type="checkbox"/> Wind Chill Advisory   |  |
| 0 - 12 Hours              | <input type="checkbox"/> Tornado Watch<br><input type="checkbox"/> Severe Thunderstorm Watch<br><input type="checkbox"/> Flash Flood Watch<br><input type="checkbox"/> Excessive Heat Warning<br><input type="checkbox"/> Wind Advisory  |  |
| During Event              | <input type="checkbox"/> Observed Heat Index in excess of 108°F.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Observed Wind Chill less than 0°F.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Observed winds in excess of 35 miles per hour.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Observed winds in excess of 20 miles per hour and tents / inflatables are in use. | <input type="checkbox"/> FSU ALERT issued for Tornado Warning, Severe Thunderstorm Warning, Flash Flood Warning or Lightning Warning.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Significant Weather Advisory (no FSU ALERT).<br><input type="checkbox"/> Lightning occurs within 8 miles of campus (even if FSU ALERT not issued). |

**Special Considerations:** Extra caution, advanced planning, and proactive weather monitoring should be undertaken for events with large crowds (>500), tents, inflatables, event is spread out on campus, and/or limited shelter capacity nearby.

**SPECIAL EVENT CONTINGENCY PLANS** should include:

- **Dissemination of Weather Information:** How will you share weather information with event attendees? Public announcements over a microphone are great when everyone is in one spot, but what if they are scattered about?
- **Sheltering Locations:** Should strong or severe weather occur during your event, where will everyone go to seek shelter? Is it big enough for the crowd size you anticipate? How long will it take for everyone to get there safely?
- **Securing Loose Objects:** Should strong or severe weather occur during your event, how will lightweight, large, and lose objects such as tents and inflatables be secured from becoming airborne projectiles? Can you continue your event without these items if strong winds are anticipated?
- **Adverse Health Effects:** Some weather-related situations can result in many health issues. For example, as the temperature rises and humidity increases, people become at greater risk for heat exhaustion or heat stroke, especially if they are engaged in physical activity. Likewise, cold temperatures can cause hypothermia. If your event is scheduled to occur during a time of high heat (Heat Index > 95°F) or deep cold (Wind Chill < 40°F), additional resources for cooling, warming, and first aid should be arranged.

This guide is provided by:

**FSU Emergency Management Department**

<http://emergency.fsu.edu/>

Matt Lewis

Emergency Management Coordinator

850-644-7055

[malewis@fsu.edu](mailto:malewis@fsu.edu)