



CONSIDERATIONS FOR SEVERE WEATHER WHEN PLANNING AND CONDUCTING OUTDOOR EVENTS

Meteorologists generally define **severe weather** as any aspect of the weather that poses risks to life, property or requires the intervention of authorities. Tulane’s department of Emergency Preparedness and Response developed these guidelines to be used as a tool to help you identify when forecasted or actual weather conditions require cancelling or postponing an event.

CAUTION: This information is not intended to be all-inclusive; it addresses only the most unsafe weather conditions. It is intended to be used in conjunction with your departments detailed Special Event Guidelines.

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.

When in doubt about what to do, consult with the Tulane Department of Emergency Preparedness and Response for assistance and weather monitoring.

ADVANCED NOTICE TIMEFRAME	TRIGGER TO CANCEL EVENT
0 - 48 Hours	<input type="checkbox"/> Hurricane or Tropical Storm Watch <input type="checkbox"/> Winter Storm Watch
0 - 24 Hours	<input type="checkbox"/> Heat Advisory or Excessive Heat Watch <input type="checkbox"/> High Wind Watch <input type="checkbox"/> Winter Weather Advisory <input type="checkbox"/> Wind Chill Advisory
0 - 12 Hours	<input type="checkbox"/> Tornado Watch <input type="checkbox"/> Severe Thunderstorm Watch <input type="checkbox"/> Flash Flood Watch <input type="checkbox"/> Excessive Heat Warning <input type="checkbox"/> Wind Advisory <input type="checkbox"/> 1/4 inch rainfall for the period beginning 2 hours before through the duration of the event. (this is what you’ll see at 1/4 (.25) inch of rain. A light rain for 2-3 hours, moderate rain for 30-60 minutes, or heavy rain for 15 minutes, forming many puddles that do not disappear easily.
During Event	<input type="checkbox"/> Observed Heat Index in excess of 108°F. <input type="checkbox"/> Observed Wind Chill less than 0°F. <input type="checkbox"/> Observed winds in excess of 35 miles per hour. <input type="checkbox"/> Observed winds in excess of 20 miles per hour and tents / inflatables are in use. <input type="checkbox"/> 1/4 inch rainfall for the period beginning 2 hours before through the duration of the event. (this is what you’ll see at 1/4 (.25) inch of rain. A light rain for 2-3 hours, moderate rain for 30-60 minutes, or heavy rain for 15 minutes, forming many puddles that do not disappear easily. <input type="checkbox"/> Lightning occurring within 8 miles of campus (even if ACCUWEATHER ALERT not issued).

TRIGGER TO POSTPONEDURING EVENT:

ACCUWEATHER ALERT issued for Tornado Warning, Severe Thunderstorm Warning, Flash Flood Warning or Lightning Warning.

Significant Weather Advisory (no ACCUWEATHER ALERT).

Lightning occurs within 8 miles of campus(even if ACCUWEATHER ALERT not issued).

Special Considerations: Extra caution, advanced planning, and proactive weather monitoring should be undertaken for events with large crowds (>100), tents, inflatables, event is spread out on campus, and/or limited shelter capacity nearby.

DEPARTMENT SPECIAL EVENT GUIDESLINES should include:

- Dissemination of Weather Information: How will you share weather information with event attendees? Public announcements over a microphone, consider additional methods 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:

Tulane Department of Emergency Preparedness and Response

<http://tulane.edu/emergency/preparedness/>

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