

Inclement Weather Planning Guidance

“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 guide is intended to be used as a tool to help you identify when forecasted or actual weather conditions may 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). *When in doubt, consult with* FSU Emergency Management, FSUPD or FSU Environmental Health & Safety.

The following triggers are considerations to cancel or, when appropriate, temporarily postpone the event for safety reasons. Temporarily postponing an event means just waiting a few minutes until the immediate hazard passes, if your schedule allows. Event organizers should use their best judgement when choosing and adjusting triggers while accounting for other considerations, such as those listed on the next page.

Event Cancellation and Postponement Triggers Sorted by Timeframe:

ADVANCED NOTICE TIMEFRAME	TRIGGER TO CANCEL EVENT	TRIGGER TO TEMPORARILY POSTPONE 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	
During Event	<input type="checkbox"/> Observed Heat Index more than 108°F <input type="checkbox"/> Observed Wind Chill less than 0°F <input type="checkbox"/> Observed winds more than 35 miles per hour <input type="checkbox"/> Observed winds more than 20 miles per hour and tents / inflatables are in use	<input type="checkbox"/> FSU ALERT issued for Tornado Warning, Severe Thunderstorm Warning, or Flash Flood Warning <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Weather Advisory (no FSU ALERT) <input type="checkbox"/> Lightning occurs within 8 miles of campus

Severe Weather Monitoring & Protective Action Resources:

- Tallahassee National Weather Service – [weather.gov/tae](https://www.weather.gov/tae)
- SeminoleSAFE App, weather – (“Current Conditions” button – <https://emergency.fsu.edu/services/seminolesafe-mobile-app>)
- FSU Emergency Action Guides, protective action steps for specific hazards – [TakeAction.fsu.edu](https://www.fsu.edu/emergency/take-action)
- Get Leon County Alerts - <https://www.leonready.com/>
- Download the free **WeatherSTEM App / find in the SEMINOLESAFE App** to view current weather conditions, closest lightning, and watches, warnings, and advisories affecting the FSU Main Campus, FSU Lakefront Park, FSU Rec SportsPlex, FSU Panama City (FL), FSU Coastal & Marine Lab, and the Ringling Museum.

WEATHER TERMS

Warning: Occurring, imminent, or likely weather conditions pose a threat to life or property. People in the path of the storm need to take protective action.

Advisory: Less serious conditions than warnings, but occurring, imminent, or likely conditions can still cause significant inconvenience and could lead to situations that may threaten life or property.

Watch: Hazardous weather is possible, but occurrence, location, or timing is still uncertain. People should have a plan of action in case a storm threatens, and they should listen for later information and possible warnings especially when planning travel or outdoor activities.

Special Considerations: Extra caution, advanced planning, and proactive weather monitoring should be undertaken for events with large crowds (>500), special populations (elderly, minors, disabled, etc.) 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?
- **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

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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.

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