

Weather Considerations for Outdoor Events

Designate shelter areas if available

- No one is safe outside of a solid enclosed structure during any thunderstorm; tents are ***not*** suitable shelters

Establish weather thresholds that will prompt the activation of sheltering and evacuation plans

- Examples/suggestions:
 - Thunderstorms (lightning) within 8-10 mile radius
 - Calculate sheltering/evacuation time utilizing 3 step decision guide
 - Heat index of xxx degrees
 - Non-thunderstorm wind gusts exceeding xx mph
- The weather thresholds should drive when sheltering/evacuation plans are executed

Designate a Weather Watcher

Weather monitoring should begin at least three days before the event begins. An effective weather watcher should:

- Understand event-specific weather thresholds and evacuation/sheltering time
- Have reliable internet access
- Have access to up-to-date radar information
- Complete the Weather Watcher Checklist
- Maintain continuous weather watch on event day (It is encouraged that they ***not*** be designated for any other responsibilities.)
- Communicate directly with incident command staff, especially when a threshold is expected to be met
- Have access to NWSChat (Request an account several weeks ahead of time) <https://nwschat.weather.gov/create.php>

Relay weather information to staff and attendees ahead of potential hazardous weather

- Examples/suggestions:
 - Severe Thunderstorm Watches or Tornado Watches
 - Prior to possible evacuation, reminding what the evacuation plan is and where storm shelters are