

# Weather Ready Checklist: Campground

## I. Getting Started: Build Your Team

- ☐ Organize a dedicated Weather Watch Team that will:
  - Monitor for developing weather threats (sometimes days in advance) and communicate potential hazards with personnel.
  - Disseminate important weather information through the organization.
  - Ensure weather response plans you will develop are activated when triggered.
  - Designate at least two individuals who will be responsible for maintaining 'Weather Prepared' status & documentation.
  - Review: "[Being Weather Ready](#)"
  - Review: "[Be a Force of Nature](#)" from the Weather Ready Nation (WRN) website.
  - Watch: [Introduction to the NWS Baltimore/Washington Office](#) – 4 minute video.

## II. Develop Plans for Weather Threats

- ☐ Develop emergency plans for various weather threats that can impact our area (from the lesser more frequent threats, to the rare but catastrophic threats). Use [this page](#) to help build your plans.
  - Plans should all include **Triggers** & **Procedures**:
    - **Triggers** to activate your plans
      - Triggers can be:
        - NWS Watch, Warnings, or Advisories
        - Thresholds
          - Ex.) Cloud to Ground lightning, hail, 50 mph wind gusts, torrential rainfall with flood threat
          - If used, include if this is a forecast or observed threshold
        - Other
      - Each plan may have more than one threshold/trigger to activate different levels of severity of response.
      - Create a "quick list" of your activation thresholds/triggers for ready access.
    - **Procedures** for effective staff response.
  - Define low, medium, high, and extreme impacts from the different types of dangerous weather and list the response to each. Severe thunderstorms / tornadoes / high winds/heat/flash flooding.
    - *Examples:*
      - i.e...What is the response when the heat index reaches 95, 100, 105+?
      - i.e...What is the response if a flash flood warning is issued for the campground?
      - i.e...What is the response when thunderstorms with frequent lightning and damaging winds will approach the campground? Is there a place of shelter for campers?

- Include evacuation plans where needed
  - How response could be impacted if resources are lost for several days?
- Make your response and preparation plans available to employees. Share plans with your city/county Emergency Manager in your local government.
- Perform a mock training exercise simulating a worst case weather scenario and involve your staff.
  - Other Recommended practices:
    - Consider hosting an NWS SKYWARN Spotter Training class once per year to teach employees and the public how to spot severe weather and learn preparedness.
    - Develop outdoor signs raising awareness to daily hazardous weather threats.
    - Provide campers with weather preparedness handouts for thunderstorms, flash flooding, heat, and wildfires.
    - Develop a siren system alerting campers to incoming thunderstorms.

### III. Weather Observation and Warning Reception

- Have continuous weather monitoring capability when facilities are staffed.
- Have multiple ways of receiving weather forecasts and warnings which can include any of the following:
  - Operational [NOAA Weather Radio](#) in a staffed location.
  - Register for [iNWS text/email alerts](#) if you belong to any of these groups. iNWS allows you to instantly receive selected NWS warnings for your location via smart phone and/or email, and can potentially trigger plans you create:
    - Any level of government
    - Members of community emergency planning & response management (i.e. emergency managers, law enforcement, fire & emergency responders, transportation & safety managers, public officials)
    - Members of the electronic media.
    - Email address you register with in iNWS can either be an individual's email, or a "group" email that you set up on your end that receives the email and then redistributes the alert email to a network of multiple individual email accounts.
  - Bookmarked list of weather Internet sites which should include [www.weather.gov/washington](http://www.weather.gov/washington).
    - Multiple ways to access the internet in the event of power loss.
      - Air card LTE, wireless device, satellite, backup location, battery backup for NOAA Weather Radio.
    - Text alerting system and or email distribution lists (such as from your city or county) to receive NWS Weather Watches and Warnings.
    - Smart Phone Applications.
    - Battery powered AM / FM radio.
- Sign up through NWS Sterling ([email here](#)) to receive:
  - "Heads-Up" emails for potential hazardous weather that arises
  - Monday 9AM Webinar – Weather impacts in the week ahead
- Develop a procedure to check the weather daily.

- Monitor the [NWS Sterling Emergency Manager Webpage](#)
  - Review the [Hazardous Weather Outlook](#) which will describe any area weather threats foreseen over the next 7 days.

#### IV. **Communication Abilities for Dissemination of Weather Warnings**

- Demonstrate multiple ways of communicating / disseminating important weather information through your facility which can include any of the following:
  - Public announcement (PA)
  - Text alerting system
  - Sirens
  - Phone calls / phone tree and/or person-to-person (runner)
  - Email lists
  - Electronic signs alerting campers to thunderstorms, flash flooding, river rises, excessive heat etc.
  - Setup a weather hotline for campers to call in. Recorded message highlighting daily threats.
- Define the flow of weather threat information from your Weather Watch Team throughout the organization.
- Develop a procedure to ensure any potential for dangerous weather is shared with your staff.

#### V. **Maintaining Weather Ready Status**

- Weather Watch Team should perform the following annually:
  - Review Weather Ready documentation and training materials to ensure preparedness for hazardous weather throughout the organization.
  - Ensure all new staff is trained in hazardous weather threats and plans.
  - Review all weather threat plans, and update as needed.
  - Update your list & bookmarks of weather web sites.
  - Conduct organization-wide weather tabletop exercise to practice your weather threat response plans. Test a different plan each year. If you would like assistance developing a weather exercise, ([email here](#)).
  - Update all contact lists, phone number and email lists.

#### VI. **Emergency Manager**

- Reach out to your city or county emergency manager to maintain awareness of your organizational response, preparation and communication plan.
- Encourage the emergency manager to be involved in your table top exercises.

#### VII. **Weather Ready Nation Ambassador (optional)**

If you would like to be recognized for your efforts in spreading National Weather Service messages for weather readiness you can apply to be a **Weather Ready Nation Ambassador** to help us spread weather readiness & help build a truly weather ready nation. ([click here](#))