



MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 7, 2017

TO: Event Planners

FROM: Timothy Ridley, CSP, ARM-P

Director, Safety and Risk Management

SUBJECT: Inclement Weather at Outdoor Special 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 identify when forecasted or actual weather conditions require cancelling or postponing an event. Recommendations from the University Police Department (UPD) and Safety and Risk Management (SRM) will be reviewed with the cabinet member that oversees the particular outdoor event. The cabinet member will then make a final determination to cancel or postpone an event. In the event of an occurrence during an event, and the cabinet officer cannot be reached, SRM will make the determination and notify the UPD. UPD and SRM receive emergency weather notifications through the service listed below.



NOAA – National Weather Service
San Joaquin Valley WFO – Hanford, CA
559.584.9051 *weather.gov/hanford*

At CSUB the weather concerns we are likely to encounter are:

Extreme Heat
Thunderstorms

High Winds
Lighting

Dust Storms

Extreme Heat - In most cases, extreme temperature (108°F, or higher) can be predicted well in advance. (At least 24 hours before an event.) Planning should be done to have the event in the cooler part of the day, in order to be under the 108° mark, or have the event moved to a different day when cooler temperatures are predicted.

High Winds - High winds may be difficult to accurately predict 24 hours in advance. High winds over 20 miles an hour can cause significant issues for events that have tents

erected. High winds over 35 miles an hour may cause events to be immediately cancelled.

Dust Storms - High winds, when combined with certain conditions common here in the San Joaquin Valley, can cause severe dust storms. If unexpected or short notice dust storms occur immediately prior to or during outdoor special events, the outdoor event may be cancelled.

Thunderstorms - These may occur with only a few minutes/hours warning. Depending on the severity of the storm, and the amount of rain and wind associated with the event, postponement may be optional if the storms are of short duration and fast moving. If not, cancellation protocols will be followed.

Lightning - Once lightning enters a 30-mile radius of the campus SRM and UPD will begin preparation to protect event participants. Once lightning enters a radius within 8 miles of the campus, the event will be immediately canceled, and participants will be asked to leave the premises or to follow the alternatives listed below.

Alternatives to Cancellation

1. Event planners who have developed pre-planned alternative indoor venues, can, in case of weather issues, move an event into those venues in lieu of the event being cancelled.
2. Under certain circumstances SRM may recommend a temporary suspension of the event in anticipation of the weather conditions changing shortly. Normally, the outdoor venue will not continue until 30 minutes after the last known strike has occurred in the area.

Please contact the Office of Safety and Risk Management at (661) 654-6320 if you have questions.