

Top Tips for Adverse Weather at Events

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY ADVERSE WEATHER?

To put it plainly, it means “**weather that can have a negative effect on people and events**”. This includes wet, rainy, cold, windy, snowy and even hot weather. Adverse weather can cancel events, affect buildings, environments and people, for example, walking in a thunderstorm increases the chance of being struck by lightning, a sleepy circuit could cause a person to slip, and heavy rain could cause a flood in a building. These tips can help you prepare for adverse weather and plan your event accordingly.

STAY CONNECTED

Where the temperatures are extremely hot or cold, be alert and look out for anyone less able to care for themselves, especially children, those with long term health conditions i.e. diabetes, and the elderly as they can be more susceptible to certain temperatures than others.

LARGE SCALE SUMMER EVENTS: Check in with the local shops, including pharmacies and superstores prior to setting up; let them know you may need additional supplies (sun cream/water), discuss their stock levels and whether they are able to deliver to your event, and if not, ensure someone is available for a Water/sun cream run on the day.

LISTEN

Listen to the news and be aware of when potentially adverse weather has been forecast and for how long it's likely to last and monitor the weather forecasts. For weather warnings use the following links:

- www.metoffice.gov.uk
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/weather>

or you can download the apps for weather warnings which work according to your local area. Weather warnings come in 3 colours: Yellow, Amber and Red.



Yellow is considered low level impact, and manageable.



Amber and Red means the weather is likely to have a serious impact on people and buildings and extra precautions must be taken. With Red weather warnings, you may even need to consider the possibility of pausing/stopping the event, as this is when serious risks to health are likely to have a major impact.



SEEK SHELTER WHERE APPROPRIATE

Hot Weather: Encourage participants to avoid the sun at the hottest time of the day (around midday), if possible or take regular breaks in the shade to cool down.

Heavy Thunderstorms/Lightning: seek shelter in a sturdy building and follow the 30-30 rule which is: if the time between when you see the flash and hear the thunder is 30 seconds or less, the lightning is close enough to hit you. After the last flash of lightning, wait 30 minutes and 30 seconds before leaving your shelter.



Check your marquees/tents, bouncy castles etc, (erected equipment, in windy/rainy weather)

In extreme weather: check manufacturing instructions for tents and marquees, and other pieces of equipment that have been erected for your event, as they are able to withstand certain windspeeds. If you are unsure of the maximum windspeed your marquees, use the Beaufort wind force scale to check what this means for the piece of equipment that has been erected.

Beaufort Wind Force Scale link: <https://www.rmets.org/resource/beaufort-scale>

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CHECK EQUIPMENT

Check any electrical equipment is safe for adverse weather i.e. waterproof plugs, use of surge protectors, sheltered from the elements. If you are using external suppliers, they should have planned for this.

STAY HYDRATED

- Provide a drinking water station or bottles of water where possible. If not encourage supporters to bring along enough water supplies.
- Encourage participants to drink cold drinks regularly, such as water and diluted fruit juice.
- Avoid excess alcohol, caffeine (tea, coffee and cola) or drinks high in sugar in hot weather and warm drinks in colder weather.

DRESS APPROPRIATELY FOR THE WEATHER.



encourage participants to dress appropriately for the weather

- **In hot weather:** Wear lightweight, loose-fitting, light coloured cotton clothes and a suitable hat e.g. wide-brimmed, to reduce exposure to the face, eyes, head and neck.
- When exposed to direct sunlight, cover your skin with clothing giving good protection; e.g. long-sleeved shirts and loose clothing with a close weave.
- Apply sunblock, or broad-spectrum sunscreens, with high sun protection factor (SPF) of at least SPF 15 with UVA protection regularly to exposed skin.
- **In cold weather:** layer up, use clothing, hats and shoes that will insulate and keep the body warm

IN HOT TEMPERATURES, HOW DO I KNOW IF SOMEONE NEEDS HELP?

Get first aid assistance if someone is feeling unwell and shows symptoms of:

- | | |
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| • breathlessness | • weakness |
| • chest pain | • dizziness |
| • confusion | • cramps which get worse or don't go away |
| • intense thirst | |

Get the person somewhere cool to rest. Give them plenty of fluids to drink. **In any emergency, contact the NHS on 999.** For more information, refer to the NHS website or dial 112

NHS Website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/heat-exhaustion-heatstroke/>

IN COLD TEMPERATURES, HOW DO I KNOW IF SOMEONE NEEDS HELP?

Get first aid assistance if someone is feeling unwell and shows symptoms of:

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| • Shivering, | • Tiredness or Confusion |
| • Shallow breathing, | • Cold and pale skin. |

Get the person somewhere warm. If they are wet, remove any wet clothing and dry them. Wrap them in blankets Give them warm fluids to drink, **only where it is clear they are able to swallow normally.** **In any emergency, contact the NHS on 999.** For more information, refer to the NHS website or Dial or 112

NHS Website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/hypothermia/>

RISK ASSESSMENT



Remember to record the above control measures in your risk assessment and inform everyone that needs to know about them i.e. suppliers, volunteers, participants.