



## SEVERE WEATHER PLAN FOR OUTDOOR EVENTS

### I. GENERAL

- A. This Severe Weather Plan (SWP) is designed as an ON-GOING plan to be followed for any OUTDOOR events that Boston Audio Visual Rental (BAVR) participates by providing equipment and services in support of such event. This SWP is referenced in the Contract Terms and Conditions provided to each client of BAVR and is available on our web site for review. This plan is to be implemented in such cases that the BAVR CLIENT hosting the event does not have a SWP in place and is in no way is intended to replace any SWP that the CLIENT hosting the event has in place. The CLIENT hosting the event assumes responsibility to utilize and implement this plan at their sole discretion. In the event that the CLIENT hosting the event fails to implement this or any other SWP, BAVR Management and/or personnel may at its sole discretion implement this SWP to primarily mitigate any potential loss of life and/or personal injury to management, personnel and attendees of event and secondarily to secure any exposed equipment from potential damage during a severe weather incident.

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- B. This SWP identifies protective actions to take during severe weather by management, personnel, and attendees of outdoor events that BAVR is participating by providing equipment and services in support of such event.
- C. Flexibility must be exercised when implementing this plan because of the wide variety and threat levels of severe weather that can occur. If discretion is exercised, err on the side of safety.

### II. ASSUMPTIONS

- A. The possibility of severe weather may exist at any time, especially during outdoor events such as social gatherings, concerts, festivals, bike/foot races, carnival/fair, company picnics, etc.

### III. BASIC PLAN

- A. Designate a person or subcommittee to be responsible for employee safety during outdoor events.
1. Designate the person or subcommittee to monitor weather conditions at least a day before the event and the day of the event. The BAVR Production Manager that will be in attendance for the specific event shall be designated as the responsible BAVR person to monitor weather forecast starting the day before the outdoor event and on an on-going basis throughout the event. Frequency of weather monitoring will be determined based on the likelihood of a Severe Weather Event occurring during the outdoor event. The weather.gov of The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States Federal Government shall be the official web site to be used for monitoring weather predictions. Local weather websites may be used to supplement the weather.com with more specific radar and written forecasts.
  2. If severe weather may threaten the area, take a weather alert radio to the outdoor event and have someone monitor weather information sources.
- B. Notification Procedures
1. Before the event - If severe weather is anticipated for the time frame the event is scheduled, make plans to cancel or postpone the event.
    - a. Identify the date/time that a decision will be made regarding event postponement, delay or cancellation.

**EVENT TO BE POSTPONED/DELAYED/CANCELLED DECISION TIME:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Event Start Time) minus (Time to Clear) equals Decision Time for Pending or Actual Severe Weather.

- b. Identify shelter areas to accommodate anticipated attendance



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**ENTER NAME(S) OF BUILDING(S) TO BE USED AS AN EMERGENCY SHELTER:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

c. If shelter areas are not available, determine time necessary to clear venue. Enter that time here:

**TIME NECESSARY TO CLEAR VENUE:** \_\_\_\_\_

2. During the event - If severe weather occurs during the event, the following persons, in order of authority, will make the decision on postponing, delaying the start, or canceling the event:

RANK	NAME	PHONE
1		
2		
3		

The same person(s) will make the appropriate announcements to those in attendance.

- a. Severe Thunderstorm Watch - If a Severe Thunderstorm Watch is issued for the area, the following announcement will be made:

**“A Severe Thunderstorm Watch is in effect for our area. Event organizers are monitoring weather conditions and the event maybe (chose one) suspended/canceled/postponed on short notice. Please be prepared to leave the area as quickly as possible.”**

- b. Severe Thunderstorm Warning - If a Severe Thunderstorm Warning is issued for the area, the following announcement will be made:

**“A Severe Thunderstorm Warning is in effect for our area. The event is (chose one) suspended/canceled/postponed until further notice. Please leave the area as soon as possible.”**

- c. Tornado Watch - If a Tornado Watch is issued for the area, the following announcement will be made:

**“A Tornado Watch is in effect for our area. Event organizers are monitoring weather conditions and the event maybe (chose one) canceled/postponed on short notice. Please be prepared to leave the area as quickly as possible.”**

- d. Tornado Warning - If a Tornado Warning is issued for the area, the following announcement will be made:

**“A Tornado Warning is in effect for our area. Take cover immediately. Do not go to your vehicle. Go to the \_\_\_\_\_.”**

- e. Tornado Sighting/Touchdown - If a Tornado has been sighted in the area, or if a touchdown has occurred, the following announcement will be made:

**“A Tornado has been sighted. All persons should take cover immediately. Do not go to your vehicle. Go to the \_\_\_\_\_.”**



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- f. Other Severe Weather - If other severe weather occurs, such as heavy rain, high winds, lightning, hail, etc... all activities will be interrupted immediately and the following announcement will be made:

**“This event is (chose one) suspended/canceled/postponed until further notice. Please leave the area/take cover as quickly as possible.”**

### 3. LIGHTNING SAFETY

- a. All thunderstorms produce lightning and can be dangerous.
- b. When cloud-to-ground lightning is seen or thunder is heard outdoor activity should be stopped and everyone should be directed to shelter.
- c. Do not resume activities until approximately 30 minutes have passed since the last thunder was heard.
- d. The existence of blue sky and the absence of rain are not guarantees that lightning will not strike. At least 10 percent of lightning occurs when there is no rainfall and when blue sky is often visible somewhere in the sky, especially with summer thunderstorms. Lightning can, and does, strike as far as 10 (or more) miles away from the rain shaft.
- e. Avoid using landline telephones, except in emergency situations. People have been killed while using a landline telephone during a thunderstorm. Cellular or cordless phones are safe alternatives to a landline phone, particularly if the person and the antenna are located within a safer structure or location, and if all other precautions are followed.
- f. To resume event activities, lightning safety experts recommend waiting 30 minutes after both the last sound of thunder and last flash of lightning. If lightning is seen without hearing thunder, lightning may be out of range and therefore less likely to be a significant threat. At night, be aware that lightning can be visible at a much greater distance than during the day as clouds are being lit from the inside by lightning. This greater distance may mean that the lightning is no longer a significant threat.
- g. At night, use both the sound of thunder and seeing the lightning itself to decide on resetting the 30 minute “return-to-event” clock before resuming outdoor event activities.
- h. People who have been struck by lightning do not carry an electrical charge. Therefore, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is safe for the responder. If possible, an injured person should be moved to a safer location before starting CPR. Lightning-strike victims who show signs of cardiac or respiratory arrest need prompt emergency help. If you are in a 911 community, call for help. Prompt, aggressive CPR has been highly effective for the survival of victims of lightning strikes. Automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) have become a common, safe and effective means of reviving persons in cardiac arrest. Planned access to early defibrillation should be part of your emergency plan. However, CPR should never be delayed while searching for an AED.

Note: Weather watchers, real-time weather forecasts and commercial weather warning devices are all tools that can be used to aid in decision-making regarding stoppage of the event, evacuation and resumption/cancellation of the event.

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