

SEVERE WEATHER PLAN FOR SPECIAL EVENTS or VENUES

Plan/Event Information for: _____

Dates of Event/Site _____
(Enter "On-going" for a plan)

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I. GENERAL

- A. This severe weather plan identifies protective actions to take during severe weather by management, personnel, and attendees of special/outdoor events sponsored by _____.
- B. 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.**
- C. Use of the Incident Command System and Incident Action Plan is highly recommended. (Recommended on line course: FEMA ICS-100)

II. ASSUMPTIONS

The possibility of severe weather may exist at any time, especially during special events such as farmers' market, concerts, Freedom Festival, bike/foot races, carnival/fair, company picnics, etc.

III. BASIC PLAN

- A. Designate a person or subcommittee to be responsible for employee safety during special events.
 - 1. Designate the person or subcommittee to monitor weather conditions at least a day before the event and the day of the event.

Person designated: _____

2. If severe weather may threaten the area, take the weather alert radio to the special event and have someone monitor weather information sources. Linn County EMA may be able to assist with weather monitoring for large venues.

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 shelter areas to accommodate anticipated attendance: **(Attach)**
 - b. If shelter areas are not available, determine time necessary to clear venue. Enter that time here:
TIME NECESSARY TO CLEAR VENUE: _____

EVENT TO BE POSTPONED/DELAYED/CANCELLED --
DECISION TIME: _____
 (Event Start Time) minus (Time to Clear) equals
 Decision Time for Pending or Actual Severe
 Weather.
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 cancelling the event:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>Phone (Cell Preferred)</u>

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 _____."

- 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. Other - _____ (provide name) will have available a mobile phone, or other communication device in case emergency responders must report to the area due to injuries, etc...

4. LIGHTNING SAFETY (a lightening detector may be available for checkout from Linn County Emergency Management.
 - 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.

(Alternate language modified from NCAA guidelines)

The following specific lightning safety guidelines have been developed with the assistance of lightning safety experts. Design your lightning safety plan to consider local safety needs, weather patterns and thunderstorm types.

- a. *As a minimum, lightning safety experts strongly recommend that by the time the monitor observes 30 seconds (approx. equivalent to 6 miles) between seeing the lightning flash and hearing its associated thunder, all individuals should have left the athletics/event site and reached a safer structure or location. Use of a lightening detector is helpful.*
- b. *Please note that thunder may be hard to hear if there is an athletics event going on, particularly in stadiums with large crowds. Implement your lightning safety plan accordingly.*
- c. *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.*
- d. *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.*

- e. To resume athletics/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.

At night, use both the sound of thunder and seeing the lightning itself to decide on resetting the 30 minute "return-to-play/event" clock before resuming outdoor athletics/event activities. Again, a lightning detector is helpful.

- f. 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.

I. IDENTIFICATION OF BEST AVAILABLE PROTECTIVE AREAS

- A. In the event of a Tornado Warning, sighting, or touchdown the following locations are designated as the best available protective areas for **outside, open spaces:**
- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

(IDENTIFICATION OF BEST AVAILABLE PROTECTIVE AREAS – cont.)

B. In the event of a Tornado Warning, sighting, or touchdown the following locations are designated as the best available protective areas for **inside areas:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

V. SUPERSESSION

This document is the initial Severe Weather Plan for Special Events for _____, and may be updated or amended as required.

Effective Date

Linn Co. EMA Review
Date Received: _____
Staff Member – reviewed by: _____
Date of Review: _____