

Adverse Weather Procedures 2023



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Purpose of this document

The purpose of this policy is to outline the procedures in place for adverse weather occurring during the build, public event and deconstruction of Slammin Events.

Given the nature of event planning and the fact that each event is unique, we will aim to take all reasonable steps to ensure information specific to each event is correctly recorded and up to date. For event specific information, please see the relevant Slammin Events own Event Safety Plan (ESP) for these events. This includes generic emergency procedures for a full or partial event closure in any circumstance, not just adverse weather.

Further guidance will be available from the Health and Safety Advisor

This policy is applicable to all staff, ticket holders, guests, artists and contractors that are involved with the festival. Responsibility for the application of this policy and procedures lies with the Senior Management Teams of AMAAD and Slammin Events.

Event Management

Planning:

As part of the planning for the event contingencies are built into the event plan from the very start to mitigate against adverse weather conditions. These will be documented in the Event Safety Management Plan and other documentation relating to the construction and deconstruction of the site. Such planning will include mitigation against possible communication challenges as detailed below.

Tufftrack and Euromat trackway will be instated on the main vehicle routes at the start of the site build and remain in place throughout the time site activities are ongoing.

The weather will be monitored in the weeks and days preceding the event, and whilst the event is taking place. Should it be felt that further contingencies are needed in extreme weather conditions for safety or operational reasons, these will be put in place. There will be a stock of spare trackway stored on site and Teram ground covers that can be employed in high audience footfall areas such as arenas and toilet areas. Prior arrangements will be made for easy access of wood chip or straw.

The organisers will have in place a contingency fund for weather related issues of £5000 for this event.

All structures, temporary or otherwise, will be subject to risk assessments which include acceptable tolerances to adverse weather conditions. These assessments will be available to all key staff with copies being held in the Production Office.

Where an event includes a form of entertainment that is particularly vulnerable to adverse weather i.e. fireworks, additional weather relate risk assessments will be undertaken.

Where adverse weather is predicted, the event medical and fire service providers will be consulted for advice and to ensure they are suitable prepared to deal with any weather related incidents.

Management of adverse weather risks in the approach to, and through the event:

The Event Liaison Team (ELT) will oversee all responses to extreme weather assisted by the Health and Safety Co-ordinator. Weather assessment and associated risks will be a standing agenda item in ELT meetings. Additional ELT meetings will be convened should a weather risk be apparent unless the risk appears so immediate that more prompt action is required.

Any reactive plan for a weather threat should be made through the ELT meeting and the Event Manager. In extreme circumstances those empowered by the Show Stop procedure are authorised to instigate any urgently needed weather related risk reduction measures. However, reference to the ELT meeting group should be made as soon as practicable.

Where time allows, weather reaction plans will be cascaded to key management personnel along with clear instructions of the actions required by their staff. Where possible these instructions will be in writing, either physically or electronically. In urgent cases instructions may be made verbally. In all cases records will be made of those instructions as soon as practicable.

Weather monitoring:

In the approach to the event, monitoring weather should be the responsibility of the Event Manager, Site Manager and Project Manager.

As the event reaches the opening date this monitoring will also include the ELT Silver and the Event Health and Safety Advisor.

Suggested weather monitoring websites will include, but not be limited to:

General weather and forecasts: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/weather> <https://www.netweather.tv/live-weather>

Wind forecast: <https://www.windfinder.com>

Live lightning monitoring: <http://www.lightningmaps.org>

Where practicable, information obtained from weather monitoring sites which is used to inform event management decisions will be recorded and retained. For example, screenshots will be taken of live lightning monitoring maps.

Specific adverse weather threats

High wind conditions

In addition to monitoring weather predictions, one or more anemometers will be placed on site in suitable locations in consultation with the Health and Safety Advisor. Key staff will be made aware of the Standard Wind Measurement Table (Beaufort Scale) as quoted at the end of this document, in order they are aware of increasing wind speeds and can raise concerns where required.

Wind loading capacities will be available for each temporary structure constructed on site.

If high winds are forecast ahead of the event, our Health & Safety co-ordinator and site management team will work with companies supplying stage structures, tents, big tops and other structures to the event to make sure that any mitigating work that can be made to these structures ahead of high winds is done in line with their wind loading calculations.

In addition, operating limits will also be set for machinery and equipment such as tele handlers, cherry pickers, access towers etc. Consideration will also be given to the movement around site of sheet materials and other construction products.

Heavy rainfall

As per the planning section above, measures will be taken to mitigate construction damage to the site during or after heavy rain, both for the integrity of the event and longer-term damage to the venue.

In addition to establishing safe entertainment levels, capacity calculations for the event will consider the options for providing cover in extreme rainfall. Where there is a significant shortfall, further mitigation measures will be considered such as additional structures, availability of ponchos and so on.

Should area of the venue become unsafe for use by the public through poor ground conditions, those areas will be fenced off, either for the duration of the event or until suitable rectification can be made. Staggered or partial opening of the event will also be considered. This approach was used successfully at Finsbury Park in 2018 whilst repair work was carried out.

Extreme cold or heat

Should advance weather monitoring suggest either extreme heat or cold, suitable precautionary advice will be provided on social media to encourage event attendees to undertake their own mitigation measures.

The event medical providers will be consulted to ensure they have sufficient capacity and supplies to deal with any outcome from these weather threats i.e., sunburn, hypothermia etc.

Free drinking water will always be available at Slammin' events. However, should high temperatures be expected consideration will be given how to increase that availability. As each venue will vary in how water is available, venue specific plans will have to be created, be it standpipes, bowsers or another arrangement. Consideration will also be given on how to deal with waste from such supply. Full details of the arrangements will be recorded either in the ESMP or the Control Room Log.

Lightning

Any lightning response plan will follow suitable industry guidance. The suspected approach of lightning storms will be monitored as above.

The following lightning response plan developed by the Health and Safety Advisor will be employed at this event:

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Electrical Storms

The height of some structures presents a risk as a potential lightning conductor, especially when sited in open ground. To reduce the likelihood of structures becoming live and causing injury to persons close to or within them, the following plan will be implemented should lightening and electrical storms be forecast:

- **STORM LEVEL 1:** Electrical storms within 20 miles
Event Management Team and other key stakeholders notified.
Alert State: **GREEN**
 - work continues as normal
 - consider implementing Adverse Weather contingency protection measures if not already in place.
- **STORM LEVEL 2:** Electrical storms within 10 miles and closing
Alert State: **AMBER**
 - Stage Managers informed
 - Personnel put on alert to increasing likelihood of severe weather
 - Climbing personnel to return to ground level
 - Normal stage-level or ground based work continues
- **STORM LEVEL 3:** Electrical storms **& strike** within 5 miles **and closing**
Alert State: **AMBER**
 - Personnel to cease normal work and prepare protection of equipment from extreme weather
 - It should be considered whether necessary to 'power down' the stage and equipment
 - Contingency plans for road closures on surrounding roads for Emergency egress
- **STORM LEVEL 4:** Electrical storms **& strike** within 2 miles **and closing**
Alert State: **RED**
 - Show Stop on all stages and power down electrical equipment
 - Evacuation of Event site beginning with tented structures initially

- Return to Alert State GREEN:

Work should not resume until 20 minutes after passing of weather system or time period between lighting and thunder increases to suggest system has moved on to a distance equivalent to storm level 1|

Key personnel such as stage and managers, security supervisors etc. will be briefed on their responsibilities for their area of work for each of the lightning alert states. This will include dealing with difficult messaging such as vacating a marquee or other structure into heavy rain when lightning is anticipated.

Communication considerations

In addition to warning customers of adverse weather ahead of an event, where possible customers should be given advance notice of a likely show stop, structure evacuation and so on. This may be via social media, stage announcements, VMS and so on. This is particularly important where the anticipated adverse weather effect is likely to prevent use of such messaging tools.

Loud hailers will be available at key locations such as stages, main gates etc.

All events will have a dedicated emergency channel which will not be affected by loss of electricity supply. Key personnel will be made aware of that channel and instructed when to use it.

Consideration will be given on how to update customers and to provide further instructions on evacuation or where a return to normality is forthcoming.

Return to normal state

Any show stop or partial evacuation, whether due to adverse weather or not, will require a considered plan for return to normality. This plan will be created by the ELT and is likely to include:

- Checking of integrity structures/ electrical supplies/ entertainment provision.
- Returning staff to positions with suitable briefing.
- Controlling calm return of customers to a location.
- Customer messaging.
- External messaging where the event has received wider social media attention.

Additional information

Standard Wind Measurement Table

Force 1	0.9 m/s	3 km/h	2 mph	Smoke drifts
Force 2	2.2 m/s	9 km/h	5 mph	Leaves rustle
Force 3	4.5 m/s	15 km/h	10 mph	Flags flutter
Force 4	6.7 m/s	25 km/h	15 mph	Small branches move
Force 5	9.4 m/s	35 km/h	21 mph	Small trees sway
Force 6	12.5 m/s	45 km/h	28 mph	Large branches/ flags move
Force 7	15.6 m/s	56 km/h	35 mph	Whole trees sway/ tents blow away
Force 8	19.2 m/s	68 km/h	43 mph	Twigs break
Force 9	22.3 m/s	81 km/h	50 mph	Branches break
Force 10	26.3 m/s	94 km/h	59 mph	Trees blow down
Force 11	30.8 m/s	110 km/h	69 mph	Serious damage
Force 12	33 m/s	118 km/h	74 mph	Hurricane damage