



Weather Safety Plan for Red River Farms

Before the Event

Tyler & Margo Sneed will ensure a weather situational awareness plan¹ is in place the day before and the days of the scheduled event. Staff will monitor the local weather via three or more of the following services: television news coverage, the Internet, mobile devices, cable and satellite weather programming, commercial services, NOAA weather radio, and National Weather Service (NWS) forecasts.

NWS Advisories, Watches, Warnings and Hazardous Weather Outlooks (HWO) can be monitored at <https://www.weather.gov/ohx/> ([Links to all NWS offices](#)) Thunderstorms and severe weather forecasts also are online at <http://www.spc.noaa.gov> .

If thunderstorms are forecast for the day of the event, we will review the safety plan before the event and identify the responsible staff and chain of command to implement the safety plan. Specifically, officials will designate a weather watcher for the event who will notify officials of the status of any thunderstorm that may threaten the safety of the event. Our weather watcher is Jason Walker.

Public Information

If thunderstorms are in the forecast, staff will notify patrons via flags on the property of any weather related concerns, the Facebook event page, venue website, and over the public address system at the venue prior to the event beginning. Weather safety guidelines and evacuation procedures will be printed in event flyers, on social media, and on the venue website.

¹ *Situational Awareness Example: Site has a computer with internet access designated for monitoring local weather web sites. A television is tuned to a channel dedicated to weather. A lightning detection system display unit is tested to ensure it is operable prior to the event. All weather reception and communication methods are tested to ensure functionality*



Before the Event (Cont.)

Designated Lightning-Safe Structure(s) or Vehicles

1. Your personal vehicle
2. Last resort—the gray barn on the property. Go to this ONLY if you cannot get to your vehicle quick enough.

If a substantial building is not available, enclosed motor vehicles can provide shelter as long as patrons do not touch the metal framework during the thunderstorm.

No place outside is safe if lightning is in the vicinity. Partially enclosed vending areas and picnic shelters are not fully safe. If no safe structure is available, direct patrons to stay away from the tallest objects (trees, light poles, flag poles), metal objects (fences or bleachers), standing pools of water, and open fields. If patrons are still in transit to the venue, encourage them to remain in their vehicles until the lightning threat has ended.



During the Event

The weather watcher will use weather monitoring and lightning detection tools along with local observations² to help determine the proximity of lightning and which safety actions to implement. The direction and speed of an approaching thunderstorm should be accounted for along with locally developing storms that may form nearby or overhead. If lightning (cloud-to-cloud or cloud-to-ground) is in the vicinity, the following procedures are recommended.

***Please note:** Lightning radii will vary based on venue size, capacity, and the amount of time it takes patrons to get to safe structures. Distances can be modified as local emergency management deems appropriate.*

When lightning/thunder is detected within 40 miles of the venue:

- Weather watcher notifies event management of elevated lightning monitoring. Management notifies the event staff/officials and vendors.
- Venue management notifies all staff members of the potential for a delay. Designated staff members are stationed to direct patrons to safe vehicles and structures.
- An evacuation of the facility will begin if it appears the thunderstorm is moving toward the venue. If a more organized thunderstorm or cluster of thunderstorms (supercells, squall lines, bow echoes) are headed for the venue, a 30 minute lead-time or more should be considered for an evacuation. These are the major impacting events with high lightning counts where an advanced delay or postponement of the event is justified. (see PA system evacuation announcements). In these cases, the weather watcher or lightning detection system operator should estimate the speed and direction of the storm movement to determine when they will enter a 30 mile radius of the venue.

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² Without technology available, the best method for local observations to determine if lightning is within an unsafe range is to listen for thunder, watch for lightning, and remember that **“When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!”**



During the Event (Cont.)

When lightning/thunder is detected within 30 miles of the venue:

- Weather watcher notifies venue management of the impending lightning threat. Management notifies the event staff/officials and vendors. A yellow flag is raised in designated areas around the property to alert vendors, staff, and guests to prepare their booths as necessary for approaching bad weather and prepare to take cover in the nearest safe area.
- Venue management informs all event staff of an impending delay. Staff members are stationed to direct the crowd to safe structures.
- If there is high confidence that lightning will move within the designated minimum radius, evacuations of the facility can begin early at this distance if not already initiated. If more organized thunderstorms (supercells, squall lines, and bow echoes) are headed for the venue, an evacuation is necessary.

When lightning/thunder is detected within 20 miles of the venue:

- An event delay is implemented when the weather watcher notifies venue management of a nearby lightning threat and, if applicable, the facility warning signal is activated. A red flag is raised in designated areas around the property notifying vendors, staff, and guests to take cover in the nearest safe area. Management notifies the event officials. Event officials suspend activities.
- Venue management informs all event staff, vendors, and guests that the event has been suspended due to lightning in the area. Staff members are positioned to direct the crowd to safe structures.
- An evacuation of the venue begins (take cover in your personal vehicles).
- All patrons are directed to the nearest lightning-safe structure (personal vehicles).
- All event performers and officials will be evacuated to pre-designated safe structures.



During the Event (Cont.)

Watches & Warnings

If a white flag is displayed in designated areas around the property, this indicates a rain delay is in place. This means that no more guests are permitted to enter the property and will be rerouted on the roads. A rain delay may last from 30 minutes to 1 hour. If the rain/downpour is still occurring after 1 hour, event management may decide to close and suspend activities for the day for everyone's safety. We ask that vendors remain in the booths for up to 1 hour during the rain delay. If after 1 hour it is still raining, members of the vendor care team (they will have marked clothing and/or name tags on) and event management will personally go to your booth to notify you that you are able to close your booths for the day and leave. Guests will be encouraged to leave, and we will honor their ticket the following day or following weekend during their ticketed time.

If a Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado **Watch** is in effect:

A watch indicates that conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop. The weather watcher will communicate this information to the venue management, indicating that elevated thunderstorm monitoring is occurring. Vital information to be shared will include the threats with the watch and the time that it is in effect until. A yellow flag is raised in designated areas around the property alerting guests to be weather aware and that vendors need to prepare their booths as necessary for approaching bad weather and prepare to take cover in the nearest safe area.

If a Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado **Warning** is in effect:

A warning means that severe weather has been detected and may be imminent in the locale. The weather watcher will communicate this information to the venue management, indicating that the thunderstorm may be imminent. Vital information to be shared will include the threats with the storms and the time that the warning is in effect until. If the threat is imminent, an evacuation of the venue will take place. A red flag is raised in designated areas around the property notifying vendors, staff, and guests to take cover in the nearest safe area.

The weather watcher will keep a log of information briefed and actions taken as a result of updates. If the watcher has questions about a storm, they can contact a commercial weather service provider at News Channel 5, 615-244-5000.



During the Event (Cont.)

Public Address System Evacuation Announcements

In a case where thunderstorms are in the forecast and an evacuation is possible during the event, radio, public address system announcements, and visual display boards will state:

“Inclement weather, including lightning, is forecast today and may lead to a delay in the event. Those of you who wish to leave the venue for a safe structure or vehicle will be permitted to re-enter with your ticket stub.”

In the case of an evacuation, radio, public address system announcements, and visual display boards will state:

“Inclement weather, including lightning, is in the area. The event has been delayed until the weather no longer poses a danger to this area. Please begin to evacuate in a calm and orderly fashion for everyone’s safety. Once the storm clears, we will notify patrons of the resumption of the event. At that point, you will be permitted to re-enter with your ticket stub.”

Resuming the Event

- If the venue is consulting with a professional meteorologist that is using real-time lightning cloud-to-cloud and cloud-to-ground data, the event may resume only if all of the following conditions are met:
 - ◆ Lightning has moved beyond 20 miles of the venue.
 - ◆ The storm motion is taking the lightning activity away from the venue.
 - ◆ The threat of new lightning strikes within 20 miles of the venue has ended.

- If the venue is not consulting with a professional meteorologist that is using real-time lightning data, the venue will wait 30 minutes after no observed thunder or lightning during the day or thunder at night before resuming activities.

After the Event

The weather watcher will remain on duty until post-event operations come to an end. A review of the weather's impact on event operations and the effectiveness of the safety plan will occur between the weather watcher and venue management.

Venue Contacts

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| National Weather Service Contact | 615-754-8500 |
| Robertson County Emergency Management Contact | 615-384-2186 |
| Robertson County Sheriff's Office Contact | 615-384-7971 |
| Robertson County EMS | 615-384-2186 |
| North Robertson Fire Department Contact | 615-384-2582 |
| Event Staff Contact | 615-813-1426 (Tyler or Margo) |