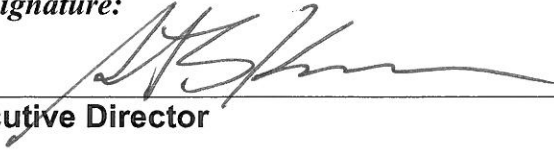


Space Coast TPO Procedure

Procedure: PR-13-05

Title: Outdoor Event Weather Procedure

Approval Signature:

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TPO Executive Director

Approved: 4-1-2013

Revised: 2-1-2018

1. **Purpose-** Recognizing that Brevard County is in a geographic area where there is a high rate of lightning strikes and lightning related injuries, severe weather can occur quickly. The purpose of this procedure is to provide guidance to SCTPO staff when conducting or participating in an outdoor event and inclement weather is present or imminent.
2. **Alternate/Safe Location-** An alternate or safe location for sheltering participants or staff should be identified during scheduling or during set up of any outdoor event.

The best shelter against lightning is a fully enclosed building. The safest place of the building is the central area away from windows, plumbing, and wiring and wired telephones. If an enclosed building is not available a vehicle with a solid metal roof, sides and the windows rolled up is the next best option.

3. **Weather Forecast-** When conducting or participating in an outdoor event, local weather forecast should be monitored in the days and hours leading up to the event to avoid putting participants or staff in a potentially unsafe situation. If forecasts suggest that weather will not be conducive to outdoor activities careful consideration should be given to rescheduling, suspending or canceling the event. If the event was

not scheduled by the SCTPO and they have no authority to reschedule or cancel the event, staff is authorized to excuse them from the event if they feel weather conditions are unsafe.

- a. If the following weather conditions are in place at the time an event is scheduled the event will be cancelled or rescheduled.
 - i. Wind Advisory
 - ii. Severe Weather/Thunderstorm Warning
 - iii. Tornado Warning
 - iv. Tropical Storm/Hurricane Warning
4. If weather conditions deteriorate during an ongoing event TPO staff shall monitor conditions and will have final authority on whether to suspend or cancel the event.
 - a. If any of the following warnings are issued during an event already in progress, the event will be cancelled immediately.
 - i. Wind Advisory
 - ii. Severe Weather/Thunderstorm Warning
 - iii. Tornado Warning
 - iv. Tropical Storm/Hurricane Warning
5. These procedures should also be used by SCTPO Staff for removing themselves from danger at any outdoor event where participation is requested.
 - a. Use of the "30/30 rule" is mandatory for all situations where severe weather is visually approaching or thunder can be heard.
 - i. If the time between seeing lightning and hearing thunder is thirty seconds or less, the outdoor activity will not be allowed to begin. If the event is already in progress, activity should be suspended immediately. Persons outdoors shall be notified to seek proper shelter

and proceed there immediately. (*If lightening can't be seen, just hearing thunder means the storm is close.*)

- ii. TPO Staff responsible for an outdoor event shall wait 30 minutes or more after thunder is last heard before resuming any outdoor activity.
- iii. Use of a portable lightning detector can be used as a guide to determine the proximity of inclement weather.