CO-POL-204
Extreme Environmental Events

Purpose

This policy documents how the project lead for Creative Okanagan-curated events shall manage extreme environmental events before and during outdoor shows.

Introduction

Extreme environmental events are defined as air quality (wildfire or smoke), high winds, lightning, heavy rain, or extreme temperatures. Such events, or resulting hazards, that can cause disruptions to a musical performance and pose a risk of injury to performers, audiences or crew require a timely and appropriate response. The primary concern during an extreme environmental event is everyone's safety.

Response Protocol

The Creative Okanagan project lead (project manager or on-site lead, as appropriate) are expected to take the lead role to ensure the protocols defined in this policy are implemented. The decision to cancel or delay a performance will typically be made in consultation with the event team including the promoter / customer, the performer(s) designated representative, and the technical crew lead. Unless contractually specified otherwise, the Creative Okanagan project lead shall take command of the scene.

If audience members, performers and/or crew are on-site at the time, then the Creative Okanagan project lead will work in tandem to communicate the situation. They shall provide clear instructions on decisions and immediate actions. Note that Creative Okanagan performance contracts will typically include provisions covering cancellations or postponements due to extreme environmental impacts.

Cancellation or postponement criteria

Extreme Temperature

Temperatures in the shade above +36 C or below +5 C at the start of showtime. These temperature limits are guidelines only and should be considered when evaluating whether to cancel a show or mitigation efforts that might permit the show to continue:

- Is there ready access to water and ice?
- Is the stage covered?
- Are fans available for the performers and crews?
- Is there a location to escape the heat in the case of individuals in distress?
- Is the temperature improving or getting worse?
- Is the humidity aggravating the effect of the temperature?
- Is it windy?
- Is there heat for the stage?
- Are performers and crew able to dress appropriately for the temperature?

High Winds

Wind velocity exceeding 70 km/hr sustained or 90 km/h gusting. The risk is tents, awnings and sound equipment moving or collapsing. People must be kept at a safe distance until the wind abates. If a high wind delays the show by more than 30 minutes, the show will be cancelled or postponed.

When there is a threat of high winds, as in the case of a severe thunderstorm or tornado, the first priority is to take shelter. In the event of a tornado, people shall be directed to move indoors if possible, or if no safe indoor location is available, to move at a right angle to the storm's path. If shelter or relocation is not possible, they shall be instructed to move to a low-lying area and lie flat.

Lightning

The **"30-30 Rule"** shall be applied. When you see lightning, count the time until you hear thunder; if that is 30 seconds or less, the thunderstorm is close enough to be dangerous – seek shelter (if you can't see the lightning, just hearing thunder is a good back-up rule). Wait 30 minutes or more after the last lightning flash before leaving shelter.

A house, or other fully enclosed building that has wiring and plumbing[1] offers the best protection against lightning. Stay away from electrical appliances and plumbing. Don't watch lightning from windows or doorways. Inner rooms are generally safer.

[1] Why wiring and plumbing? Because both services require earth grounding, thus giving the lighting a path to ground that does not include your body!

A vehicle with a metal roof (not a convertible!) is your second-best protection against lightning. Keep the vehicle doors and windows closed and do not put your foot on the ground while inside the car. It is the vehicle's metal shell that protects you, not the rubber tires.

Heavy Rain

Cancellation or postponement due to heavy rain shall be purely a judgment call. Factors to consider:

- Is any AC-powered equipment getting wet?
- Is the sound equipment (speakers, amps, lights, etc.) protected?
- Are the performer's instruments exposed and risking damage?
- Is the audience still enjoying the experience?
- What are the negative consequences of cancelling or postponing?

Air Quality

Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) rating higher than 7. Bad air quality may put some audience members and performers at risk and consideration should be given to cancelling the show. If AQHI is 8 or higher one hour before show start time, the show shall be cancelled or postponed to another date.

