

# Adverse Weather

## Adverse Weather Plan

Adverse weather can cause major disruption as well as potentially put attendees at risk. Aberdeen's weather can be temperamental, so organisers are advised to hope for the best but plan and be prepared for the worst.

Wet weather can impact outdoor events all year round. Not only can it dampen the mood of those working or attending the event but it can reduce attendance. Rain can also create additional hazards around the event site such as surface water which can make areas unusable, verges and slopes slippery underfoot and areas of high footfall muddy. Wet weather can also increase the risks associated with using temporary electrical systems and increase the chances of causing damage to the ground when using vehicles and heavy equipment.

If your event is taking place in winter you may need to consider the impact that the cold can have on your event. The ground may become hard, paths and access roads can become icy and dangerous and you will need to make sure volunteers, staff and attendees are dressed appropriately for the conditions.

Warm weather can also impact outdoor events. Event organisers should consider the need to provide free water and sun screen for staff, volunteers and attendees and provide areas of shelter from prolonged sun exposure. If your event involves strenuous activity, there is potential for warm weather to put competitors at greater risk of heat stroke and exhaustion. As a result you might need to increase the medical provision or adapt the activity to reduce the risks to those involved.

## Safe use of inflatables and temporary structures in high winds

Temporary structures are vulnerable and dangerous in high winds and it is important that organisers are aware of the risks, employ only competent contractors to erect, manage, adapt or dismantle the equipment and that they put plans in place to deal with any high wind forecast or on-site conditions. This plan is often referred to as a Wind Management Plan.

To help keep members of the public safe and ensure a consistent approach to delivering events in the city, Aberdeen City Council have made it a condition that all events which feature temporary structures (including inflatables, marquees and stages) have a Wind Management Plan in place. This plan would be expected to contain details of the maximum wind speed for all structures and equipment, information on how the wind will be measured and details of actions and responsibilities in adverse weather conditions.

In order to be effective, Aberdeen City Council recommend that wind management plans:

- Detail a forecast monitoring regime on the lead up to the event
- List the maximum wind loadings\* of all equipment, temporary structures, inflatable equipment and other items vulnerable in high winds being used at the event
- Evidence the on-site wind monitoring regime (which must include the use of anemometers)
- Provide an action plan for each item, detailing the actions and measures in place for when the equipment faces winds reaching varying speeds (e.g. 75%, 85% and 95% of the equipment's max wind speed)
- Detail the person or organisation responsible for each item's wind action plan

\*The maximum wind load is determined by the equipment's manufacturer, who will stipulate the maximum wind speed in which the equipment can be used before it will be comprised and put those at the event at risk. The supplier of the structure, be it a stage, marquee, platform, bouncy castle or other will be able to provide you with this information.

Further information on dealing with adverse weather and developing wind management plans for funfairs can be found [here](#), and for temporary structures [here](#). An example wind management plan is included within the [Template Event Manual](#).

**Mandatory Conditions:**

- Events which feature temporary structures (including funfairs, inflatables, marquees and stages) must submit a suitable Wind Management Plan to Aberdeen City Council in advance of their event
- Events which feature temporary structures must have access to an anemometer to allow them to measure on-site wind conditions
- Operators must be deemed competent and have appropriate insurance, training, equipment certification and risk assessments in place