

# Special Events Weather Procedure

April 26-28, 2024

NXL Paintball Tournament, 6:30 am – 5:30 pm, Audubon Park  
Firewheel Classic Golf Tournament, 7:30 am – 2:30 pm, Firewheel Golf Course

## Monitoring and Alerting

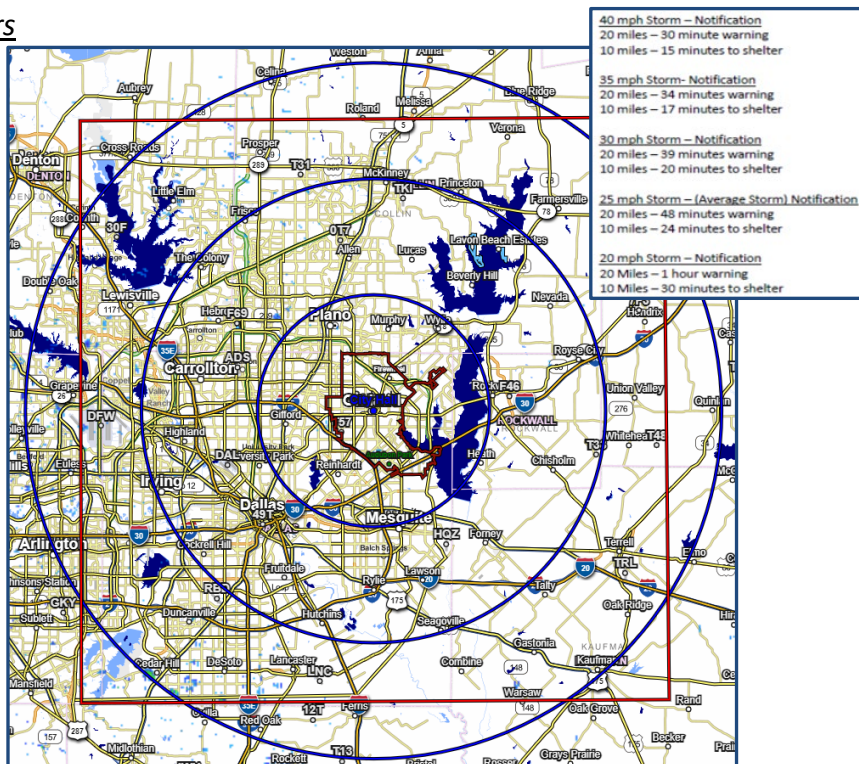
Office of Emergency Management will monitor the weather throughout the event during operational hours including:

- Maintain real-time communications with the National Weather Service.
- Monitoring weather applications including Tempest Weather stations in Garland, WeatherTap, Barron Weather, Sferic Maps including real-time lightning detection and monitoring with 10, 20 and 30 mile radius detection.
- Activate site specific alerts for OEM staff and other staff monitoring the event.
- Utilize the parameters below to estimate possible impact timing.

*Note: storm tracking and development is situational and can rapidly change with little to no notice including development that occurs directly onsite which will not be able to be predicted; therefore, these parameters are guidelines not absolutes*

- Emergency Management will notify operations staff of any approaching threat for storms and lightning no later than 30 miles out. Then updating with specific alerts and notification being sent at 20 miles out to allow time to initiate site evacuation/clearance with the site manager.
- If the storm or storms are moving at a faster pace a decision for postponement by operations staff may have to be made at a distance greater than the 20-mile threshold to allow enough time to initiate site evacuation /clearance procedures.

## Alerting Parameters



Estimated Timing for Incoming Storms		
Speed	20 Miles Out	10 Miles Out
40 MPH	30 Minutes	10 Minutes
35 MPH	34 Minutes	17 Minutes
30 MPH	39 Minutes	20 Minutes
25 MPH	45 Minutes	24 Minutes
20 MPH	1 Hour	30 Minutes

### Notification and Warning

#### **Event Participants, Patrons, and Vendors**

- Emergency notification to event patrons and vendors will be accomplished via direct contact with event coordinator by contacting CVB & Events staff. The event coordinator has setup a notification system for all participants and vendors for the event through their registration process.
- PD may use squad cars throughout park if equipped with PA system. Bullhorns may be used by staff where available.
- While Garland does not have the contact information for participants, patrons, and vendors, the Garland Notification System will be activated in accordance with public warning procedures so citizens registered in the system who are attending the event will get the same notifications they would ordinarily for other severe weather incidents within Garland.
- Outdoor Warning System: In situations such as damaging winds at or above 70 mph, hail at or above 1.25", and/or a tornado warning, OEM will activate the Outdoor Warning System. The hail size is reduced from normal severe weather warning threshold due to the number of people outdoors related to the special event.

#### **Garland Staff**

- OEM will activate the Garland Notification System (GNS) to send texts, emails, and phone calls for staff assigned and working the special event to warn of impending threats including severe weather.
- If an order to delay, cancel, or evacuate the event site is given, notification will be immediately sent to operations staff via everbridge and communicated through their chain of commands to field staff on site.

### Emergency Actions for both Weather and Man-Made events

The City of Garland may postpone event activities and have patrons seek shelter when a severe thunderstorm, hail and/or lightning are within 20 miles of the designated event area. The Office of Emergency Management will notify Unified Command of the approaching threat at 30 miles out to allow time to initiate sheltering procedures. If the storm or storms are moving at a faster pace a decision for postponement by Command may have to be made at a distance greater than the 20-mile threshold to allow enough time to initiate sheltering procedures.

**When time allows,** Unified Command (Special Events, PRCAD, OEM, FD and PD) will make the decision to:

- Temporarily postpone the event and initiate site clearance to shelter in vehicles
- Partially evacuate an area within the event grounds or fully evacuate the grounds
- Cancel the event
- Chose a combination of any of the above

**In situations that do not allow adequate time for a UC decision,** Life safety of citizens and staff is always the first priority in determining which action is most appropriate for a situation. For this reason, when a life safety threat exists, the following applies:

The following City positions can exercise authority to temporarily postpone or evacuate the event grounds:

- City Manager or designee
- Chief of Police or designee
- Fire Chief or designee
- Fire Marshal
- PRCAD Ops Director

For man-made or human caused threats or emergencies, PD and FD may take immediate public safety protective action and determine the course of action from shifting patrons from one area of the event or full evacuation of the grounds by identifying routes and exits according to the variables of the threat.

### **Sheltering**

For lightning, the site should be cleared and participants and patrons should seek shelter in their vehicles. In a severe weather situation when a vehicle is not appropriate, patrons should be moved to any available building onsite as space allows.

### **Reunification**

In the event reunification is needed, PD will lead efforts to include identifying an appropriate location for the reunification center or area. OEM will coordinate with IT, to establish a phone bank if determined necessary to support reunification if determined appropriate. PMR will coordinate public and social media messages to support reunification as deemed necessary by UC.

### **All Clear**

The all clear will be given in the following 2 phases via the same methods as emergency notification:

- 1.) Phase 1 is for staff and the site manager to evaluate safety of site and for site staff to get back to their areas of operation before the participants and patrons are released.
- 2.) Phase 2 will be for patrons to gain access back to the site.