



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Risk Management

PO Box 163500
Orlando, FL 32816

Severe Weather Guidelines

Severe weather can strike at any time, however, in Central Florida, the summer months are especially active. It is advised that events have a plan in place in the event of severe weather. This plan should take into account the possibility for thunderstorms, tornadoes and flooding. UCF's Office of Emergency Management website offers several resources on weather preparedness and can be an invaluable asset when creating a severe weather plan for your event. For additional information, please visit their website at <http://www.emergency.ucf.edu/>. Below are guidelines for some of the severe weather outbreaks your event should plan for.

Thunderstorms

Thunderstorms can be single celled, multicellular cluster or super celled. A cell consists of a cumulonimbus cloud with a onetime updraft and a onetime downdraft. Typically, thunderstorms consist of high winds, rain, lightning and in some cases, hail. When outdoors, immediately suspend the event and seek shelter inside a fully enclosed building or hard top automobile away from windows and doors, if possible. This is especially important for events taking place at Lake Claire or other areas on campus with pavilions, as pavilions do not provide adequate shelter from lightning or hail. Once the National Weather Service has declared the storms have passed and the area is clear, the event can be resumed.

Tornadoes

Tornadoes generally occur near the trailing edge of a thunderstorm, but can form without warning. Some of the danger signs can include: dark, greenish sky, large hail, large dark low-lying clouds and a loud roar, similar to a freight train. If your event encounters any of these signs or alerts from the National Weather Service, suspend the event and immediately seek shelter inside an enclosed building away from corners, windows, doors and outside walls. Once the National Weather Service has declared the storms have passed and the area is clear, the event can be resumed.

Flooding

Severe thunderstorms can create the potential for flooding in certain areas when several inches of rain are dropped in a single location in a short amount of time. Once the National Weather Service has cleared the storms, take additional precautions when traversing areas of potential flooding. This includes avoiding moving water, staying on high ground, following only those paths indicated by authorities and staying clear of roadways to allow emergency workers to assist those in need.