



INCLEMENT WEATHER GUIDELINES FOR MD STATE BBQ BASH

At the MD State BBQ Bash, the safety of our attendees, staff, and participants is our top priority. While we strive to hold the event as planned, weather conditions will be closely monitored to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone.

Weather-Related Cancellation Policy:

1. Event Continuation:

The event will proceed as scheduled rain or shine, and we encourage attendees to plan accordingly for varying weather conditions.

We will not cancel or postpone the event due to light rain, drizzle, wind, or other minor weather disturbances.

2. Severe Weather Definition:

The event will only be canceled or interrupted in the event of severe weather that poses a significant risk to the safety and well-being of attendees, staff, or participants.

Severe weather includes, but is not limited to:

- Lightning or severe thunderstorms
- Tornadoes or tornado warnings
- High winds (above 40 mph)
- Flash flooding or hazardous flooding conditions
- Hailstorms

Any other weather event as determined by local authorities or our event management team to pose an immediate safety risk; this will include any unforeseen weather conditions that may pose a significant electrical hazard to the staff and public (for example- rain runoff that puddles to pose an electrical hazard threat). Please see the guideline chart below.

3. Decision-Making Process:

The decision to delay, cancel, or modify the event due to severe weather will be made by the event management team in consultation with local weather services and authorities.

Announcements regarding any changes will be made via our official communication channels (e.g., email, website, social media) as soon as a decision is made.

4. Refunds:

No refunds or credits will be issued for weather-related interruptions. If the event is canceled due to severe weather, the event organizers will issue refunds for the affected day/days only and do so within 10-15 business days. The Bel Air Downtown Alliance and its affiliates are **not responsible** for any costs incurred by vendors or participants related to the event including but not limited to cost of food or

beverages, materials, supplies, or equipment purchased for the event, and labor costs or preparation time.

Should any of the following triggers occur or become forecasted for the time of the event, the event should be cancelled or, if appropriate, temporarily postponed for safety reasons. Temporary interruption of the event means just waiting a determined period of time until the immediate hazard passes, if the schedule allows.

NOTE: This checklist addresses only the most unsafe weather conditions and is used as an internal guideline for cancelling or delaying elements of the event:

ADVANCED NOTICE TIMEFRAME	TRIGGER TO CANCEL EVENT:	TRIGGER TO TEMPORARILY DELAY ELEMENTS OF EVENT:
0 - 48 Hours	<input type="checkbox"/> Hurricane or Tropical Storm Warning <input type="checkbox"/> Snow Storm Warning	
0 - 24 Hours	<input type="checkbox"/> Heat Advisory or Excessive Heat Watch <input type="checkbox"/> High Wind Watch <input type="checkbox"/> Winter Weather Advisory <input type="checkbox"/> Wind Chill Advisory	
0 - 12 Hours	<input type="checkbox"/> Tornado Warning <input type="checkbox"/> Severe Thunderstorm Warning <input type="checkbox"/> Flash Flood Warning <input type="checkbox"/> Excessive Heat Warning <input type="checkbox"/> Wind Advisory excess of 40 mph	
During Event	<input type="checkbox"/> Observed Heat Index in excess of 108°F <input type="checkbox"/> Observed Wind Chill less than 0°F <input type="checkbox"/> Observed winds in excess of 40 miles per hour <input type="checkbox"/> Flash Flood Warning	<input type="checkbox"/> Significant Weather Advisory <input type="checkbox"/> Lightning occurs within 8 miles of event

Special Considerations: Extra caution, advanced planning, and proactive weather monitoring will be undertaken for this event due to large crowds (>1000), tents, inflatables, event is spread out on campus, and limited shelter capacity nearby.

SPECIAL EVENT CONTINGENCY PLANS INCLUDE:

- Securing Loose Objects: Should strong or severe weather occur during your event, disassemble tall signage and secure any item that could be blown over or present a safety risk.

-Weather Disturbances: We encourage vendors to remain open and serving. Whether that's having extra tents you bring to set up for people waiting in line/ordering, getting sides for any tents that you bring to block rain/wind/etc., or other measures so that you are prepared, we recommend that you procure the necessary supplies to stay operational. We would also advise that you ensure your rigs are up-to-date and able to handle the elements. In the event of a weather disturbance in which the event is continuing,

and you decide to close we will not penalize you; however, you will not be permitted to bring any equipment/vehicles into event central until Saturday after 11:00pm.

The following table displays the time prior to the impact of severe weather system, the operations, and actions to be taken by the Emergency Services Unified Command and Protective Action Decision to be issued.

Time	Operation	Action	Protective Action Decision
1 Hour	Monitor severe weather system and track its movement toward the County and the event site	1. Coordinate with NWS Sterling Lead Forecaster on severe weather system prediction forecast model	None
30 Minutes	Track the severe weather system/storm cell's approach toward the event site	1. Coordinate with NWS 2. Brief the Unified Command 3. Brief Emergency Manager 4. Develop PAD 5. Disseminate PAD to Public 6. Implement PAD	1. Evacuation 2. Shelter-in-Place
5 Minutes	Continue tracking weather system and implement PAD	1. Continue PAD implementation 2. Continue Alerting Public 3. Move the Unified Command to a Shelter-in-Place location (Parks & Rec Office) 4. Brief Emergency Manager	1. Evacuation until it is no longer safe to do so. 2. Shelter-in-Place within on-site structures suitable for the weather event
0 Minutes (Impact)	All Public Safety Resource Shelter-in-Place until severe weather system passes	1. Coordinate with NWS on duration of storm 2. Coordinate with Emergency Manager	1. Shelter-in-Place

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