
Weather Emergency Action Plan (EAP) – Thunderstorms

Event: Lake Country Tri

Location: City Beach, Oconomowoc, WI

Date: July 26, 2025

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1. Purpose

To ensure the safety of all participants, volunteers, staff, and spectators in the event of severe weather, specifically thunderstorms, including lightning activity.

2. Monitoring

- Weather will be continuously monitored starting 24 hours before the event via NOAA, local radar, and mobile weather apps.
 - On race day, a designated weather safety officer or race director will monitor real-time updates.
 - Communication will be coordinated with local emergency services.
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3. Alert Thresholds

- Lightning within 30 miles of the course (using a reliable lightning detection app or service).
- Thunder heard in the area.
- Severe thunderstorm warnings issued by the National Weather Service.
- Sudden changes in radar indicating fast-moving storm systems.

4. Action Triggers & Response

Condition	Action
Lightning detected within 30 miles	Delay or suspend event; move participants and spectators to shelter
Thunder heard	Delay or suspend event
Lightning All-Clear (30-minute rule)	Resume event 30 minutes after last lightning strike or thunder heard
Severe weather imminent	Activate full evacuation plan and emergency services as needed

5. Communication Plan

- The announcer will make PA announcements regarding delays, course changes, or evacuations.
- Communication will be relayed to:
 - Volunteers via radio, cell phone or text groups
 - Athletes via announcer and through on-site volunteers
 - Social media and event website updates

Sample Announcement:

“Attention athletes and spectators: due to lightning in the area, we are temporarily suspending the race. Please seek shelter in your vehicles or designated indoor areas. We will resume racing no earlier than 30 minutes after the last lightning or thunder has passed.”

6. Shelter Locations

- Indoor shelters: Oconomowoc Community Center
- Secondary shelter: vehicles in parking lot
- Volunteers will assist in directing participants to safe locations

7. Modifications or Cancellation

Depending on the timing and severity of the storm:

- Events may be delayed, shortened (e.g., convert triathlon to duathlon or 10K), or canceled.
- Priority will be given to athlete safety, especially during open water swim or on exposed bike/run courses.

8. Staff & Volunteer Roles

- Race Director: Oversees decision-making and communication
- Weather Officer: Monitors and advises on conditions
- Volunteer Coordinators: Relay info to volunteers and assist with crowd management
- Police/EMS: Support traffic control, evacuation, and emergency medical care

9. Post-Event Review

- Document timing of weather alerts, decisions made, and outcomes
- Assess effectiveness of the plan and revise as needed for future events