



EXTREME WEATHER

Extreme weather conditions, such as extreme heat, high winds and heavy rain can have detrimental impacts on events. Having adequate plans in place to deal with extreme weather are essential for all events.

Extreme Weather Planning

Top Tip

No amount of planning can prevent an extreme weather event from happening, and in some instances the only course of action will be to postpone, cancel or relocate your event. Council will recommend if significant adverse weather conditions are forecasted by BOM and is deemed unsafe to proceed.

There's no place like home

Wind is arguably the most dangerous and likely extreme weather factor for an event. Always be mindful and aware of the weather forecasts.

Total Fire Ban (TFB)

Council will revoke any event permits issued for events within a bushland reserve, on a TFB day if a suitable replacement location cannot be found.

Fireworks displays are not permitted within Whitehorse on TFB days.

Pre-Event measures

- Regularly check the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) forecast to monitor weather conditions and ensure the expected conditions are communicated to staff, volunteers, contractors and the public. If high winds are anticipated, ensure staff, volunteers and contractors are informed and order additional resources required for maintaining the safety of the site.
- Organise a site inspection prior to the event. If there are any site maintenance issues, speak to Council to see if they can be resolved.
- Design site signage and installation to withstand adverse weather conditions.
- Brief staff, volunteers and contractors to wear suitable clothing for the weather conditions.
- Create an emergency evacuation plan and decide on evacuation locations.
- Have a plan to communicate if your event is postponed, cancelled or relocated due to weather. It is your responsibility to make a call on if your event proceeds or not
- Increase number of first aiders and ensure first aid supplies are available during the event set up and pack down.

At Event measures

- Keep a supply of sunscreen and water at first aid/information.
- Provide bottled water to all staff, volunteers, contractors and performers.
- Regularly check the Bureau of Meteorology, to monitor weather conditions and wind speed. Certain types of work or activities may need to be postponed or suspended dependent on the weather conditions. For example working at height, the operation of amusement rides or inflatables and performances might need to be cancelled in high winds or rain.
- Regularly check temporary structures.
- Have plans in place to manage the evacuation of your event site and mid-event cancellations.

Planning for Total Fire Ban (TFB) Days

Some Council sites do not allow events or activities to operate on days that have been declared TFB days, this includes all bushland reserves, such as Blackburn Lake. If your event site is closed due to a TFB, Council will not give permission for the event to run on that day.

On TFB days, BBQs and spit roasters can only be used if prior permission has been sought and granted by the MFB. See mfb.vic.gov.au for details. A copy of the Events MFB approval letter will need to be submitted to Council.



Questions? Please contact the Events Officer on 9262 6352 or arts@whitehorse.vic.gov.au