

Extreme Weather Guidelines

Education and Engagement Centre, The Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust (RBGDT)

Summary

It is the responsibility of the visiting group to identify if any of its participants have a health condition that would be adversely affected by weather condition and/or air quality. The visiting group is responsible for its participants health and safety and is required to withdraw some or all participants if necessary.

RBGDT will cancel a program if – storms, lightning, high winds and poor air quality would endanger participants or if any warnings or orders to stay indoors are issued by Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), NSW Health or another public authority AND an excursion cannot be modified to run completely indoors.

RBGDT will modify a program if – this can be done without the program itinerary being significantly affected, and the visiting group agrees. Decisions are based on BOM advice or health warnings to ‘at risk’ people e.g. those with Asthma.

For avoidance of doubt, the participating group may not cancel or modify the event without RBGDT’s approval.

Decision Making Guidelines

Programs may not be cancelled when the weather meets the below criteria if there is an option to deliver a program completely indoors. The decision to cancel a program will be made by the Learning Lead in consultation with the Learning Manager.

Not all weather conditions will be apparent the day prior and decisions may need to be made on the day to modify or cancel.

Extreme Weather	CANCEL excursion when forecast is for:	MODIFY excursion when forecast is for:	Source of updates/forecast	Time to check
Temperature	Less than 5°C maximum daily temperature OR Greater than 40°C maximum daily temperature	Less than 10°C maximum daily temperature OR Greater than 35°C maximum daily temperature	http://www.bom.gov.au/places/nsw/sydney/forecast/detailed/	10am the day prior
Snow and ice	Snow or ice that makes travel to BMBG site dangerous	Snow or ice that makes movement around BMBG site dangerous	http://www.bom.gov.au/places/nsw/sydney/forecast/detailed/	10 am the day prior
High winds	Winds 50km/h or higher = 7 or more on the Beaufort Scale	Winds 39 km/h or higher = 6 or more on Beaufort Scale	http://www.bom.gov.au/places/nsw/sydney/forecast/detailed/	10am the day prior
Severe thunderstorms	Severe Thunderstorm Warning or Hail Warning in vicinity, less than 30 mins since last lightning strike in vicinity	Any thunderstorm or hail warning in vicinity, less than 30 mins since last lightning strike in vicinity	http://www.bom.gov.au/places/nsw/sydney/forecast/detailed/ and hail warnings here http://www.bom.gov.au/nsw/warnings/	10am the day prior
Abnormally high tides or surf	NA – unless excursion needs foreshore access (RBG only)	Severe weather warning for tides/surf or any localised flooding/king high tides (RBG only)	http://www.bom.gov.au/nsw/warnings/	10am the day prior

Extreme Weather	CANCEL excursion when forecast is for:	MODIFY excursion when forecast is for:	Source of updates/forecast	Time to check
Poor air quality	Site AQC = VERY POOR or HAZARDOUS or apparent air quality is very poor (eg. heavy smoke or smog is visible)	Site AQC = POOR or apparent air quality is poor (eg. some smoke or smog is visible)	https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/air-quality/air-quality-concentration-data-updated-hourly	4pm day prior
High rainfall	High 70-80% or Very High 90-100% chance of 100mm all day OR 50% chance of more than 30mm within 1 hour of excursion times OR previous rains have caused flooding of access roads or the excursion site.	High 70-80% or Very High 90-100% chance of 80mm all day OR 50% chance of more than 20mm within 1 hour of excursion times OR previous flooding on access roads has subsided but some excursion areas are still submerged.	http://www.bom.gov.au/places/nsw/sydney/forecast/detailed/	10am the day prior
Bushfires	Catastrophic fire danger rating for Greater Sydney region (ABG, BMBG) OR Watch and Act or Emergency Warning alert level from RFS for fires in the vicinity of the site.	Extreme fire danger rating for Greater Sydney region from BOM (ABG, BMBG)	For fire rating in Greater Sydney Region: https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fdr-and-tobans and for detailed location of fires: https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fires-near-me	10am the day prior
Assets	Effects of previous storms have damaged RBGDT's assets and basic services cannot be provided e.g. power, water, lighting.	Effects of previous storms have damaged RBGDT's assets and basic services cannot be provided e.g. power, water, lighting.		

View all current warnings for NSW: <http://www.bom.gov.au/nsw/warnings/>