

IEA Weather Safety Guidelines



The IEA's mission is to promote and improve the quality of equestrian competition. Safety is a top priority at all sanctioned events. Weather can at times pose a risk and therefore we want to stress the importance of proper planning and effective communication.

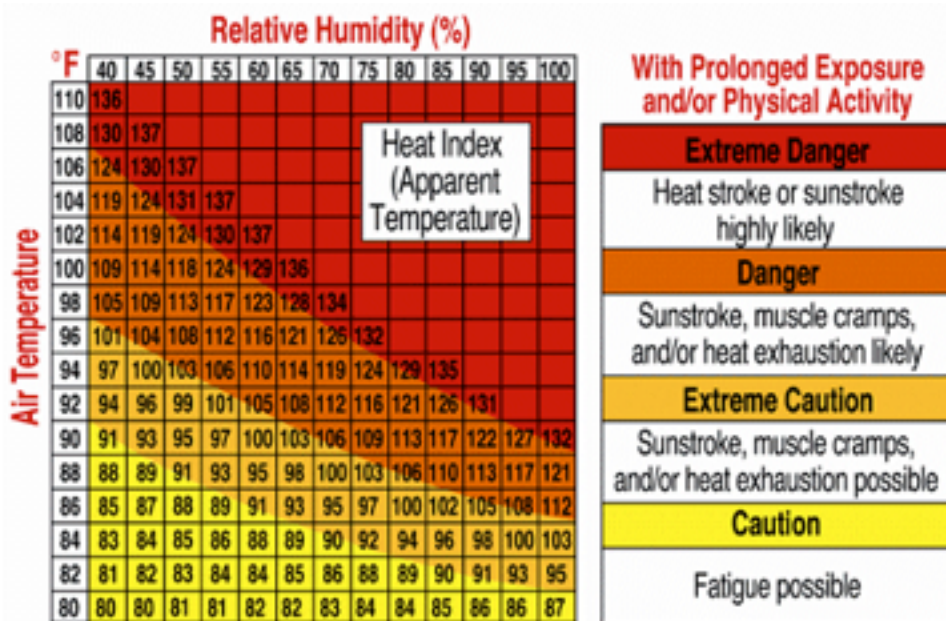
What follows are basic weather guidelines and weather-related considerations for show management, which are not intended to be a substitute for decisions made “on the ground” by show management, based upon these guidelines or other relevant factors as determined by show management.

The most common severe weather conditions include:

- Hot weather- risks of dehydration, heat exhaustion, or heat stroke
- Cold weather- risks of hypothermia and frostbite
- Winter storms
- Thunder storms

Hot Weather

When the Heat Index (a measurement found using temperature and humidity to express the perceived temperature) is 90 degrees or higher there is an increased risk of dehydration, heat exhaustion, or heat stroke.

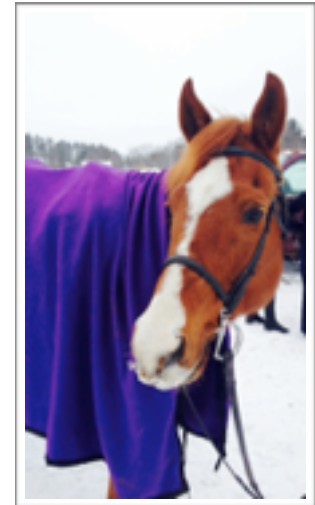
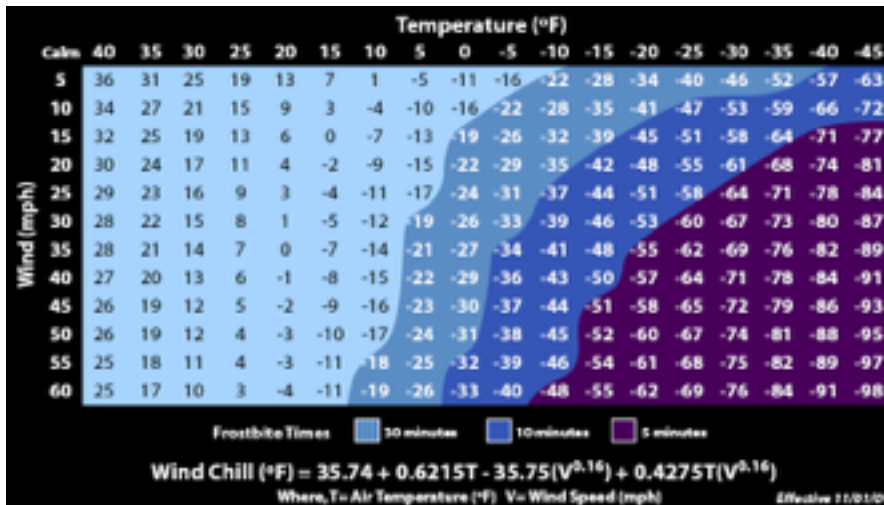


Preparations: Encourage riders to drink plenty of water throughout the day. Have water available for horses standing ringside. Encourage use of sunscreen by show staff.

Possible actions: Show management may use their discretion in allowing riders to show without show coats.

Cold Weather

The IEA season falls in line with the coldest months of the year. Use caution when the Wind-Chill Factor (air temperature combined with wind speed) drops below 30. You may want to consider rescheduling or delaying the start time of an outdoor event if the temperature drops to extreme lows.



Preparations: Considering having coolers available for horses and warm drinks for exhibitors. Note that changes in footing may occur when temperatures fall below freezing risking injury to horses.

Possible actions: Show management may use their discretion in allowing riders to wear winter coats and horses to wear quarter sheets in the show ring.

IEA Rules Regarding Storms

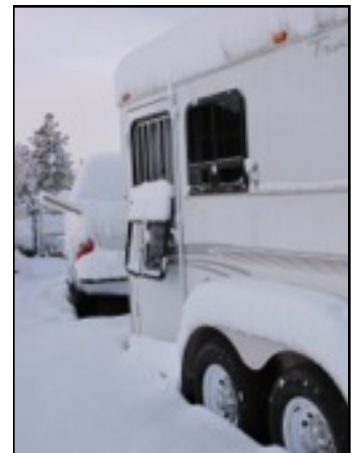
4402 A class in operation at the time of the stopping of a show for any reason shall cease and no placements shall be made. In the event that a class in which horses compete individually is stopped while in progress, due to storm, accident, or other emergency, the following procedure shall govern:

1. If the class is continued at the same session of the show, it shall proceed from the point at which it was stopped.
2. If the class is continued at a succeeding session of the show, it shall be held over in its entirety and no scores credited in the first session shall count.

4403 If the class in which horses compete together is stopped while in progress due to storm, accident, re-ride or other emergency, the class (or test), when recommended, shall be held over in its entirety, and no consideration shall be given to the performance during the original session. If a show is stopped while in progress and is unable to recommence, then any points earned for a completed class will be awarded to the individual rider's point totals, but no team points will be awarded at that show.

Winter Storms

As a show host you should consider the road conditions for those traveling to your event. Has there been a significant amount of snowfall? Are the roads icy? If the roads are deemed unsafe by local authorities, it is not worth the risk to travel, especially when driving a trailer full of horses. *US Rider*, the national provider of roadside emergency assistance for equestrians, reminds us “rain, ice, and snow take it slow.” Visit usrider.org for more tips on trailer maintenance and how to trailer horses safely.



Know the difference between a storm *watch* and a storm *warning*. A storm watch means that there is the potential for a severe storm, so be prepared. A storm warning means that a possibly life-threatening severe storm has begun or will begin in 24 hours, so take action to secure your safety.

Preparations: Watch weather reports frequently; consider sanding and salting the facility driveway and walkways.

Possible Actions: If you conclude that the weather presents a significant threat to safety or there has been a *State of Emergency* declared, consider rescheduling or canceling your horse show.



Thunder Storms and Lightning Safety

Having a plan and a safe place to shelter in the event of lightning is an important step in risk management. It is recommended that outdoor events be suspended or moved indoors if a storm is less than six miles away (including mounting and warm-ups). In order to determine the distance of a storm in miles use the **Flash-to-Bang Method** by counting the number of seconds between seeing lightning and hearing thunder and dividing it by five (lightingsafety.noaa.gov).



Preparations: Develop a plan for a safe place to take shelter nearby.

Possible actions: If you determine risk is present because a cloud-to-ground strike of lightning is seen, or for other reasons, all exhibitors should take shelter as soon as possible.

Canceling Events

If you determine the weather poses a significant threat, make a decision to cancel your show at least 12 hours before the start time. Contact the IEA Membership Office, all show officials, and coaches as soon as possible. You will also need to contact Equisure at 1-800-752-2472 to cancel your show insurance policy.

Refunding Entries

Rule 5304 states that refunds will be provided to those who scratch before the show's closing date. *Rule 5305* states that the Event Host is not obligated to refund scratches after the closing date. However, when weather presents an obstacle to those traveling long distances, please consider providing a refund to coaches who contact you 18 or more hours before the start time. All entries should be refunded in the case of a cancelled event.

Force Majeure

Notwithstanding anything in these guidelines to the contrary, the IEA shall not be liable for any cancelled or delayed event for the period that such cancellation or delay is due to causes beyond the reasonable control of the IEA, including, but not limited to, acts of God, war, strikes or labor disputes, embargos, government orders or any other force majeure event.

References:

lightingsafety.noaa.gov

http://www.usrider.org/news_11_11_16.html