

Guelph Jazz Festival Weather and Evacuation Plan

Guelph Jazz Festival Water Safety and Weather Emergency Evacuation Plan

I. Introduction: Weather Related Concerns

The Guelph Jazz Festival will be held rain or shine. For Friday's event at Market Square, in the event of significant weather, programming will be moved to Mitchell Hall prior to the event. There is no "rain date" for Saturday. Performances may not occur if any of following conditions prevail:

- Lightning
- Tornado warning
- Flood warning
- Severe heat (Humidex >43°C)

All performers, volunteers and vendors will be advised concerning weather safety protocols prior to the Festival. All participants will be able to review this document at guelphjazzfestival.com.

The safety of spectators and Festival participants who are not performing is a priority for Festival managers. This document will address the procedure in the event of a weather emergency during the event.

II. Severe Weather and Lightning: Evacuation Plan

Festival staff will monitor weather forecasts and satellite radar, using Environment Canada as the authoritative report. We will monitor consistently in advance of the Festival to track the possibility of severe storm activity. Likewise, the weather forecast will be monitored throughout the day on an on-site computer/smart phone on the Festival site. If, for some reason, the wireless access is not operative or reliable, festival staff will consult Environment Canada's Meteorological Service to monitor weather patterns. It is difficult to imagine circumstances where, aided by modern smart phone technology, the Festival staff will not be able to monitor approaching storm activity effectively.

Suspension of Performance Schedule

Should lightning occur within a 20-30 minute range of a scheduled outdoor Festival performance, the program will be suspended until the lightning and/or storm activity has passed.

Evacuation of Festival Site

If severe inclement weather is observed on the satellite radar systems and such severe weather is approaching within 20 to 30 minutes of the Festival Site OR if the severe weather pattern is clearly discernible, then the Festival Site may be evacuated, at the discretion of the Festival staff. The decision to evacuate will be made by the Director of Operations in consultation with the Festival Organizational Team, Environment Canada's Meteorological Service, and the Guelph Police Department.

Police Department and Traffic Flow

Once the decision to evacuate the Festival Site has been made, the Police Department (if not already cognizant of the decision) must be immediately notified so that police officers will be able to facilitate traffic moving from the area.

Notice to Participants and Spectators

The decision to evacuate the Festival Site will be communicated as follows:

- Loudspeaker or megaphone announcements (Site Manger or Market Square Manager).
- Festival personnel and/or volunteers will visit each area at the venue and/or site to advise of the evacuation order and direct to evacuation sites
- Festival personnel and/or volunteers will canvas the spectators' area to advise of the evacuation order and direct attendees to evacuation sites
- This Weather and Evacuation Plan will be posted on the Festival website
- This Weather and Evacuation Plan will be provided, in advance of the Festival, to each individual that has been designated as a site leader
- This Weather and Evacuation Plan will be posted at the Festival Information Tent and a copy provided to each artist participating in the Festival.

Evacuation Sites

- Personal vehicles parked within the immediate area
- Numerous area restaurants
- 10C, 42 Carden Street