



Inclement Weather Procedure

Purpose

This procedure describes how to avoid and manage the risks to all staff and students who may be exposed to inclement weather conditions. Inclement weather is the existence of abnormal climatic conditions including; extreme high temperatures, rain, hail, high winds, severe dust or electrical storm and high humidity.

Health Risks

Performing activities in inclement weather conditions can cause significant risks to the health and safety of individuals. These include:

- Illness such as hyperthermia (heat stress, heat stroke, sunstroke) or hypothermia (low body temperature)
- Aggravation of pre-existing medical and physical illnesses.
- Increases risk of accidents as a result of the inability to concentrate.
- Fatality

Controls

Risk controls are needed when there is a risk associated with inclement weather conditions:

Elimination– reorganisation of outdoor work or activity programs.

Engineering– use of controls such as natural and/or artificial shade; heating/cooling devices; air conditioned vehicles.

Administrative– activities to be performed in shade; relocate to indoors; vary working hours; protective clothing to be worn; sun-smart practice; supply of drinking water.

Site Managers in conjunction with staff and workers must regularly monitor the weather conditions during work or planned activities. This can be achieved by rechecking severe and fire weather warnings and making general observations.

Guidelines used with students during inclement weather

RAIN – When it rains at recess/lunch-time (for anything but a brief passing shower) students and the yard-duty teacher must return to the library. It is the responsibility of the YARD-DUTY TEACHER to inform students to move indoors. Students confined to the library during recess/lunch-time due to rain may engage in any 'informal' activities as determined by the teacher on duty. Should the rain stop, students may return to the yard and the normal yard duty roster is maintained.

HOT or EXTREME WEATHER – The air conditioned school library is open to students at recess and lunch-time at the teacher's discretion.

It is the responsibility of the YARD-DUTY TEACHER to inform students to move indoors. Students confined to the library during recess/lunch-time due to hot weather may engage in any 'informal' activities as determined by the teacher on duty.

EATING OF RECESS & LUNCH – Students are required to sit in the outdoor learning area (under the pergola) to eat their recess and lunch. Students may then move in to the library as instructed by the teacher on duty. On days of extreme weather conditions (extreme heat, cold, wind and rain) students may be instructed to eat their recess and or lunch in their classroom whilst supervised by their class teacher. When instructed by their class teacher, they may move to the library for the remaining recess or lunch-time.

CURRICULUM / EXCURSIONS / EXTRA CURRICULA ACTIVITES

Where an excursion or extra curricula activity is planned on a day of hot or extreme weather, leadership will determine the safety of the activity and whether it should continue. This may also apply to activities planned in the general curriculum.

In the case of extreme/unpredictable weather conditions normal Precautionary Building Confinement (Lockdown) , Shelter-in-Place or Evacuation emergency procedures will be followed.