

# EXTREME WEATHER RESPONSE PLAN

Ocean Charter School

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Review Date: Annually by June 30

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## 1. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this Extreme Weather Response Plan is to protect the health, safety, and well-being of students, staff, and visitors during extreme weather conditions. This plan establishes procedures for monitoring weather conditions, modifying or canceling outdoor activities, communicating with stakeholders, implementing mitigation measures, and responding to weather-related emergencies.

This plan applies to all district-operated schools, programs, athletic activities, recess periods, physical education classes, field trips, and outdoor events.

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## 2. Definitions of Extreme Weather Conditions

For the purpose of this plan, extreme weather conditions include, but are not limited to:

### Excessive Heat

- National Weather Service Heat Advisory, Excessive Heat Watch, or Excessive Heat Warning.
- Air temperatures of 95°F or greater.
- Heat Index exceeding 95°F.

### Poor Air Quality

- Air Quality Index (AQI) of 101 or higher (Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups).
- Presence of wildfire smoke or other hazardous airborne contaminants.

### Severe Cold

- Temperatures below 40°F with prolonged outdoor exposure.
- Wind chill conditions that create a risk of cold-related illness.

## High Winds

- Sustained winds exceeding 25 mph.
- Wind gusts exceeding 40 mph.

## Severe Storms

- Thunderstorms with lightning.
- Heavy rain causing flooding concerns.
- Hail or other hazardous storm conditions.

## Other Hazardous Weather

- Tornado warnings.
  - Flash flood warnings.
  - Dust storms.
  - Any weather event determined by administration to pose a safety risk.
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# 3. Weather and Air Quality Monitoring Procedures

The District shall monitor weather and air quality conditions daily.

## Monitoring Sources

- National Weather Service (NWS)
- AirNow.gov
- South Coast Air Quality Management District (or local AQMD)
- County Office of Emergency Services
- Local emergency alerts

## Monitoring Responsibilities

The following personnel shall monitor conditions:

- Principal or site administrator
- School safety coordinator
- Athletic director (for athletic events)

## Monitoring Schedule

- Daily review before school begins.
  - Midday review when elevated weather conditions are forecast.
  - Ongoing monitoring during outdoor events and athletic activities.
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## 4. Decision-Making Responsibilities and Timelines

### Principal/Site Administrator

- Makes site-specific decisions regarding recess, PE, outdoor lunch periods, and school activities.
- Implements mitigation measures and communication procedures.

### Athletic Director/Coach

- Monitors weather conditions before and during practices and competitions.
- Implements athletic activity modifications.

### Decision Timeline

- Initial assessment completed by 8:00 a.m. each school day.
  - Reassessment conducted as conditions change.
  - Outdoor activity decisions communicated as soon as practicable.
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## 5. Criteria for Modifying or Canceling Outdoor Activities

### Heat Conditions

| Temperature/Heat Index | Action                                                   |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Below 90°F             | Normal activities with hydration encouraged              |
| 90–94°F                | Increase water breaks and shade access                   |
| 95–99°F                | Reduce strenuous activities and shorten outdoor exposure |
| 100–104°F              | Move vigorous activities indoors whenever possible       |
| 105°F or higher        | Cancel outdoor physical activities                       |

### Air Quality Conditions

| AQI Level | Action                                                       |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0–100     | Normal outdoor activities                                    |
| 101–150   | Limit strenuous activity for sensitive groups                |
| 151–200   | Reduce outdoor activities; move strenuous activities indoors |
| 201+      | Cancel outdoor activities and remain indoors                 |

## Lightning

- Outdoor activities shall be suspended immediately when lightning is detected within 10 miles.
- Activities may resume no sooner than 30 minutes after the last observed lightning strike or thunder event.

## High Wind

- Outdoor activities may be modified or canceled when sustained winds exceed 25 mph or gusts exceed 40 mph.

## Severe Storms and Flooding

- Outdoor activities shall be canceled when weather warnings indicate imminent danger.
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# 6. Indoor and Alternative Activity Plans

When outdoor activities are modified or canceled, OCS will provide alternative indoor opportunities including:

## Physical Education

- Fitness stations
- Yoga and stretching
- Classroom movement activities
- Indoor walking programs

## Recess Alternatives

- Board games
- Structured classroom activities
- Library activities
- Educational enrichment programs

## Athletics

- Indoor conditioning
- Film study
- Team meetings
- Skill development activities in approved indoor spaces

Schools shall identify designated indoor locations including:

- Gymnasium

- Library
  - Classrooms
  - Multipurpose Spaces
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## 7. Communication Protocols

### Internal Communication

Administrators shall notify:

- Teachers
- Staff
- Coaches
- Special Education Department

### Parent and Guardian Communication

Notifications may be provided through:

- MailChimp Emails
- Text message alerts
- School website
- School social media

### Required Information

Communications will include:

- Description of weather conditions
- Activities affected
- Alternative arrangements
- Any health and safety precautions

### Emergency Communications

Immediate notifications shall be issued when weather conditions require urgent protective actions.

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## 8. Mitigation Measures and Site Preparedness

OCS shall maintain appropriate mitigation resources including:

### Heat Mitigation

- Accessible hydration stations
- Water refill locations
- Shaded outdoor areas
- Indoor cooling locations
- Portable cooling equipment when available

### Air Quality Mitigation

- Indoor shelter areas
- HVAC systems maintained according to manufacturer recommendations
- Air filtration systems where available

### Storm Preparedness

- Designated shelter locations
- Emergency supplies
- Communication equipment

### Equity Considerations

OCS shall strive to provide equitable access to mitigation resources to entire OCS community.

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## 9. Staff Training Requirements

All staff shall receive annual training regarding:

### Weather-Related Illness Recognition

#### *Heat Illness Symptoms*

- Dizziness
- Headache
- Nausea
- Excessive fatigue
- Muscle cramps
- Confusion

#### *Air Quality Distress Symptoms*

- Coughing
- Wheezing
- Shortness of breath
- Chest tightness

#### *Cold-Related Symptoms*

- Shivering
- Numbness
- Fatigue
- Loss of coordination

### Response Procedures

Staff shall be trained to:

- Activate emergency medical services when necessary.
- Move affected individuals to a safe environment.
- Provide first aid within the scope of training.
- Notify administration and parents/guardians.

Training shall occur:

- At the beginning of each school year.
- During staff onboarding.
- As needed following significant weather events.

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## 10. Coordination with Local Agencies and Experts

OCS shall maintain coordination with:

- National Weather Service
- County Office of Emergency Services
- Local fire departments
- Public health agencies
- Local Air Quality Management District
- Emergency medical providers

The purpose of coordination is to ensure timely access to:

- Weather forecasts
- Air quality information

- Emergency notifications
  - Public health guidance
  - Safety resources
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## 11. Annual Review and Update Process

This protocol shall be reviewed annually by the OCS Safety Committee and administration.

The review shall consider:

- Changes in law or guidance
- Emerging best practices
- Weather trends and local conditions
- Incident reports
- Stakeholder feedback
- Resource availability

Recommended revisions shall be presented to the governing board for approval as necessary.

Documentation of each annual review shall be maintained by the District.

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## Plan Approval

Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Board Approval Date (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_