



Inclement Weather & Tent Safety

You can have confidence that Metro Cuisine has installed your tent to exacting standards for the comfort of your guests, providing shade and protection from heat and inclement weather. However, if severe weather occurs, tenting should not be used as a severe storm shelter, as Metro Cuisine's personnel will not be on site during your event to monitor your guests safety.

It is your responsibility to act decisively and quickly in the event of a severe weather disturbance that could exceed the tent's ability to protect its occupants. No tent, regardless of how well it is designed and installed, is invulnerable to the laws of nature. As a result, you will need to monitor the safety of those who will attend your event. Below we have put together some general guidelines that you may find helpful. While they are not encompassing as to the many situations that can occur, you may find that many of these situations will simply require reasonable judgment on your part.

Make an Emergency Plan for Severe Weather. You can count on the weather in Ohio to be unpredictable. So it's just common sense to have a plan for the unexpected.

1.) In the days Prior to the event:

Designate someone or a team of individuals to be in charge of the emergency plan.

- For a wedding: A family member or a wedding planner.
- For a corporate event: A Safety Director, Risk Manager, Event Planner or HR Director
- For a public gathering: A Show Manager, Parks & Rec. Manager or the Fire Chief

2.) On the day of the event, your designated person needs to be responsible for:

- Monitoring a weather source two (2) or more hours before the event begins. (This can be as simple as a weather site on a smart phone or checking with the National Weather Service for a severe weather alert.)
- Deciding whether or not to proceed with or to delay the event, under the tent, based on that intelligence.
- Determining a safe evacuation route to a safer location in the event of severe weather.

3.) During the event:

- If a Severe Weather Alert is posted, monitor the location of the activity and be prepared to act.
- If a Severe Weather Alert has not been posted, and you see any of the below typical signs of severe weather conditions, act immediately. **SAFETY FIRST!**
 - * Lightning strikes with 1 mile (count of less than 5 seconds between lightning & Thunder
 - * High winds that are waving large trees or causing leaves to be ripped from trees.
 - * Dark clouds bearing down on you.
 - * Heavy rain, falling so hard that it looks like a "water fall" at the side of the tent.

4) If a Decision is made to evacuate, you must:

- Announce immediately that there is an emergency weather danger and that it is unsafe to stay in the tent in severe weather
- State forcefully that this is an emergency, the tent cannot be used as an emergency shelter during severe weather and they must leave.
- Tell them they must leave the tent without delay and take shelter in the location you have picked out earlier that day.

We are happy to answer questions about the above guidelines or address safety concerns prior to your event.