



Extreme Weather Policy

What is Extreme Weather

Extreme Weather includes unusual, severe, or unseasonal weather.

Camp management and office staff routinely check the weather and stay informed of severe weather warnings. All possible accommodations are made in a timely manner to ensure the safety and movement of campers to emergency safety locations.

Watch

Keep watch for favourable conditions of storms. Make staff aware of these conditions as necessary, and monitor weather closely.

Camp Oconto Emergency Safety Locations

- The Basement of the Bung
- The Basement of Awakening/Seven Up
- The Workshop

What to do in the Event of Extreme Weather in Section

Staff are responsible for moving campers from their location to one of the emergency safety locations.

Tads - Basement of the Bung

Chips - Basement of Awakening

Eagles - Basement of Awakening

Ints - Basement of the Bung

Seniors – Basement of Awakening (if too full, use Workshop)

QCs – The Bung (if too full, use Workshop)

All others (Culinary, Medical, Misc.)- The Workshop

What to do in the event of Extreme Weather at an Activity/ Around Camp

Staff are to bring campers to the closest safety location to their current position. Communicate to Director, or designate, where people are waiting.

Camp Directors will:

- Determine where people should assemble.
- Determine the need for evacuation of camp.
- Determine the need to contact emergency services.
- Determine the need to implement Emergency Media Plan.
- Debrief as soon as possible following extreme weather event.
- Gather all information needed for incident report.

Staff will:

- Ensure safety and wellbeing of campers.
- Perform accountability checks and report information to directors – via walkie talkies.
- Supervise movement of campers as needed.
- Maintain a calm atmosphere.
- If evacuating, ensure groups stay together.

Extreme Winds

Upon notification of a hurricane watch status, all personnel will attempt to accomplish the following on an individual basis:

- Clear grounds of anything that will 'fly' and secure it in cupboards or under buildings. Start closest to the lake, where wind will be the strongest.
- Clear desktops completely of paper and other articles (stash in drawers or cupboards).
- Where possible, protect books, valuable papers, and equipment by covering with plastic sheeting and masking tape (or put into cupboards).
- Where necessary and possible, move desks, file cabinets, etc., away from windows.
- Open windows about 2 inches on both sides of buildings to allow pressure to equalize. Remove screens so they don't blow in and hit someone.

Hurricane Warning: Action-Responsibility

- Director will communicate emergency planning in effect to all section heads, directors, medical, maintenance, and office staff, who in turn will notify all personnel.
- Establish media connection if needed.
- Notify the municipality of your camp's status and request a police unit to secure and assist patrolling the facility.
- Close main gate.
- Make final facility check for debris.

Hurricane Post-Storm: Action-Responsibility

- Safety of all campers and staff is the top priority, so deal with them first.
- Assess damage and report to Director any security/safety concerns (e.g. Hydro lines, fallen trees, major erosion).
- Have Section Heads or designate inspect facility for broken glass and other safety hazards.

Extreme Heat

- Camp Oconto's goal is to outline the responsibilities and procedures to protect Staff and campers from heat stress and prevent heat-related illnesses.
- **Heat stress:** is the body's exposure to heat. There are two sources of heat stress, one is the heat in the environment, the other is the heat the body generates when it exerts effort. **Heat strain:** is the effect of heat stress (external and internal) on the body which results in the experience of negative symptoms and in severe cases even death.
- **Humidex:** is a measure created by Environment Canada that considers not just temperature but also the effect of relative humidity. The Humidex provides the temperature that it "feels like" when you take the humidity into account. **Camp Oconto's Extreme Heat procedure comes into effect when the humidex is 40 degrees.**
- Oconto Staff and campers need to be aware of the signs and symptoms of heat stress and know what to do to prevent them. In heat stress conditions, everyone needs to watch out for each other as well since in some heat stress conditions (i.e., heat stroke) the individual experiencing this condition is not able to look after themselves. Staff need to notify their Activity Head/Section Head if they are experiencing any heat stress symptoms or see others who are not doing well. Staff and campers need to make sure they stay well hydrated.
- **Mitigation measures at Camp Oconto (to be implemented when the humidex is 40 degrees or above). Please note that monitoring should begin when the humidex is 30 degrees or above:**
 - Additional opportunities to cool off by swimming in the lake must be provided (for example during Free Times; Evening Program; before bed etc.). Use a run in run out/clap on system if necessary. Allow the wearing of bathing suits to the Dining Hall for meal(s) during

Extreme Heat events to facilitate easier swims before/after meals. Pay close attention to the time in the evening to ensure swimming is happening before darkness falls. The Program Coordinator or designate will create a schedule for guarding during Extreme Heat events.

- A separate Run in Run Out schedule will be offered to campers during extreme heat events. Campers are expected to cool off during the following offered times at Main Beach:
 - o Free time before lunch
 - o Free time before dinner
 - o Before tuck in.
- During extreme heat events indoor activities should be moved outdoors where possible and shortened to require run in run out for campers.
- Use the cooling centres (Basement of Bung; Basement of Awakening; cool room in Health Centre) as a place for staff and campers to take a break from the heat. These areas must be kept tidy with work and personal information properly put away because it is hard to predict when someone will need to use the space to take a break from the heat.
- Make ice available in a cooler at the flag pole that campers and Staff can add to their water bottles. Encourage ample hydration.
- When possible, avoid activities that are too strenuous in extreme heat (for example: horseback riding; running).
- Staff and campers are strongly recommended/encouraged to wear sun related personal protective equipment (PPE). This PPE is a wide brim hat, a sun shirt and sunscreen.