
ISLAND SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL INCLEMENT WEATHER DECISION-MAKING AND COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURES

This Rain Protocol draws directly from the Smoke Protocol developed by the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. We thank Scott Kaiser for sharing this with ISF.

When inclement weather (wind, rain, etc.) conditions are present or potential, the Operations and/or Artistic Director will track and report conditions for South Whidbey Locations through app and online sources, as well as through actual conditions on site.

The Weather Team members include **Deciders:** Artistic Director, Operations Director, Production Manager; **Advisors:** Board President, Administrative Director, Performance SM; **Backstage Liaisons:** Artist Deputy (Emissary?), Other Members of the Stage Management Team.

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING PERFORMANCE STATUS

The criteria and thresholds for performance alteration/cancellation and other decisions has been and will continue to be a fluid and evolving matrix of factors, subject to change based on the specific needs of each season's performers and plays.

IN ADDITION TO THE NIGHTLY FORECAST, THE FOLLOWING FACTORS WILL BE CONSIDERED:

- Current campus weather conditions
- Health status of performers, crew and staff - the demands of a particular show, sensitivities of any specific cast/crew members, and any accommodations that would allow the performance to continue. In every circumstance, individual performers and crew members should assess their own physical conditions.
- Modifications to choreography and blocking (including tempo) that could create a safer performance in wet conditions
- Performer sensitivities – does anyone suffer from mobility impairment that might be worse on a wet stage?

TIMELINE/PROCEDURES

- Each rain night should have an on-call team of three (3) members of the Rain Team, consisting of one Decider, one Advisor, and one Backstage Liaison. The Artistic Director will or will designate communication to the public.

ISF RAIN PROCEDURES

- On rainy days, the Operations or Artistic director will periodically report weather updates to the Rain Team (whenever rain is seen or reported); and will call on-site/virtual meetings as needed.

SAFE TO PERFORM

If rain persists through the day but clears up by 5:00 PM and no precipitation is detected on radar for the rest of the evening, the outdoor performance will proceed as planned.

MONITOR

If radar shows possible precipitation for the performance window:

11:00 AM:

- The Weather Team will discuss the current conditions and forecast.
- If there is general certainty that conditions will be bad in the evening, the Rain Team will decide to set the Tent for the show. We recognize that weather can change dramatically throughout the day and that it is rare that a decision might be made at 11:00 AM.
- If there is a good chance that conditions will be favorable, the decision will be deferred to 4:00 PM.

4:00 PM:

- As is likely, if morning decision was deferred, the Rain Team will meet in the tent and confer with that production's Stage Managers, House Manager, Actor Liaison, etc. The Rain Team will provide the latest weather predictions. The Liaison and SMs will come with the latest information on the health of their colleagues. The Rain Team will decide if the performance should go forward onstage or if the tent should be set up.
- Again, we recognize that even close to show-time it can be hard to predict rain. We will only set up for a tent show if the DarkSky radar app clearly demonstrates rain to be likely at 6:00 PM, using 80% chance as our guide.

In the likely event that we move forward with onstage preparations:

- The Weather Team and SM team will stay on site to continue to assess situation.
- At 5:00 PM (or at an unscheduled intermission) on-site team will meet with performers and crew onstage or backstage to discuss any adjustments necessary.
- During the performance the on-site team will: monitor rain conditions, track patron behavior/comments, count departures in collaboration with the House Manager, support the backstage liaison and receive feedback from performers and crew.
- At any time, the Stage Manager is authorized to pause the show to get feedback from performers and crew, or to consult with the on-site team members.
- It is under the purview of the Stage Manager, in communication with the Actor, to change/adapt/slow down choreography and blocking, adjust costuming/props (especially footwear), and/or any other adjustments that might create a safer performance during wet conditions.
- If conditions are uncertain or rapidly changing, the on-site team will stay through the end of the show. As the performance progresses, if conditions are clearly stable and safe, the Rain Team will disband, either partially or totally, as conditions warrant.
- If rain increases during the performance, the SM will consult with the HM and an intermission may be called in order to reset the tent to complete the performance.
 - In the case, the Stage Manager will call "Hold."

ISF RAIN PROCEDURES

- Actors on stage will cease action
- The SM will announce from the booth we will be taking a brief intermission to reset for rain and will ask the audience to remain seated momentarily
- The actors onstage will exit to backstage
- The House Manager will make a brief onstage speech to the audience that we will take a brief intermission to reset for rain in the tent. They are welcome to leave at this time, or to join us in five-ten minutes in the tent. The HM and Ushers will move seats into the tent and the SMs will proceed with what was established during Rain Rehearsal.

IN CASE OF HEAVY WIND OR POWER OUTAGE

We will cancel performances under the following circumstances:

- Lightening strikes within 5 miles
- Wind gusts above 40MPH
- Sustained winds above 30MPH

Performance may go forward with adjustments in the case of a power-outage.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

IF THE SHOW IS NOT MOVED TO THE TENT BEFORE 4:00 PM BUT CONDITIONS MAY WORSEN:

- Add to pre-show curtain speech
- Update Social Media with performance status

IF THE SHOW IS NOT MOVED TO THE TENT AND CONDITIONS ARE STABLE OR MAY IMPROVE:

- No action needed

IF THE SHOW IS MOVED TO THE TENT PRIOR TO 4:00 PM:

- Email Rain Team
- Email All Daily Call List and Performance Report List
- Email reservation holders (Admin Dir.)
- Update social media (Artistic Dir.)
- Hang "Rain Show" sign on Welcome Gate

IF THE SHOW IS MOVED TO THE TENT MID-PERFORMANCE:

- Email Rain Team
- Email to all reserved seats patrons the following morning to inform them of their options