

# Hang Out with Habitat 2018

## WEATHER POLICY

### Lightning

A weather-related delay must be initiated until the lightning strikes are a safe distance away. Lightning can strike horizontally up to forty (40) miles. If lightning strikes within forty (40) miles and nothing separates an event and the lightning (i.e. taller buildings), then it is not safe to be out on the rooftop. If surrounded by taller buildings, the safe distance for a lightning strike can be shortened. Regardless of surrounding buildings, remain indoors if lightning is observed within twenty (20) miles. If thunder can be heard, remain indoors. It can be considered safe to restart the event ten (10) minutes after the last observed strike or sound of thunder.

### Heavy rain

Typically, an event can continue to operate in rain. When rain is so heavy people lose vision or some other unsafe condition exists due to rain, a weather-related delay must be initiated until rain eases enough to continue.

### Wind

Wind can cause participants to lose their ability to continue down the rope or they may be blown away from the building. Wind can cause entanglement of ropes and can increase the risk of injury to participants. A general guideline for wind speed is a sustained wind of approximately twenty-five (25) miles per hour (MPH). However, gusty wind can be a problem in a less sustained wind speed. Wind direction and building location can also affect how wind affects an event. A building can sometimes block the wind all together or direct the wind at the rappel face. OTE technicians are to use hand held anemometer wind gauges at the rappel site to help determine safe wind speeds for an event. The SSS shall initiate a weather-related delay if any of the following conditions exist: a sustained wind at the rappel face of twenty-five (25) MPH or higher, gusts lasting twenty (20) seconds of twenty-five (25) MPH, gusts lasting less than twenty (20) seconds of higher than thirty (35) MPH or a lower wind in a direction that causes persons to place themselves at likely risk of injury.

### Heat

Heat can be very dangerous to people working outdoors. When temperatures rise, a rooftop can quickly exceed the heat index. Rope volunteers, photographers, TM and the SSS can be exposed to extreme heat on hot days. Monitor people closely and ensure people drink lots of water. Give people lots of breaks and allow people to spend some time indoors during the hottest parts of the day. In the event of OTE personnel showing signs of a heat related illness and no one is available to relieve that person, a weather-related delay shall be initiated for a time to allow that person to recuperate in the conditioned air indoors.