

ROYAL WELSH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Adverse Weather Conditions

Purpose

This aim of this document is to mitigate any potential associated risks to all persons and animals, in the event of adverse weather conditions whilst attending an event facilitated by the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society.

This policy and procedure support the general welfare statement of the Society which stipulates:

“The society will conduct its undertaking in such a way as to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that persons who may be affected by its activities are not exposed to risks to their health and safety.”

Climate change

It is well recognised that adverse weather and unpredicted seasonal climate is a secondary factor, associated with environmental climate change. Whilst events are held in Spring, Summer and Winter months, the facilitation and visitor experience are invariably defined by Weather. The Society has experienced extreme heat during the Royal Welsh Show in July and extreme flooding and cold weather, during the Winter Fair in November. It is therefore realistic within the pre-planning phase to prepare for any eventuality.

The Royal Welsh Agricultural Society has produced an Event Management Plan which is reviewed and updated prior to each event. This document sits within this framework, as part of a wider safety management plan, as well as identified within the pre-planning risk assessment.

Both Public Health Wales and NHS Wales provide a unified approach to safety behaviours when extreme weather occurs, which routinely will initiate public safety advice in health and social care. However, organisers of outdoor events are also recognised as being significant in providing safe environments, as well as echoing public health principles. This reinforces the accountability and expected responsibility associated with the event industry.

<https://phw.nhs.wales/services-and-teams/environmental-public-health/extreme-hot-weather/>

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Adverse Heat

- **Effective Communication and Social Media Campaigns pre-event:**

As raised both Public Health Wales and NHS Wales will systematically raise awareness of preventative measures to take, when experiencing extreme hot weather.

In conjunction with this, the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society works alongside localised groups, such as the Builth Wells Partnership Group (BWSG), whom have Powys County Council representation including Highways, Environmental Health, Licensing, as well as members from the Emergency Blue Light services. Localised organisations are also present such as Builth Wells Town Council, SV Arena and Penmaenau.

A unified approach to safety messages incorporating extreme heat, has been collated for all partners to disseminate through their own media and communications. Along with other localised establishments, the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society receives templates and media resources, prior to the event whereby messages are continually reinforced through a coms and media strategy. This ensures clear messages are received to all persons attending the event.

Within this, is an emphasis on the need to keep rehydrated by drinking water and the regular reapplication of sunscreen (see appendix 1). As the site is purpose built, such resources are available at the event, which are annually reviewed by relevant departments, such as the Estate team (water mains infrastructure, environmental health regulations and general maintenance).

- **Keeping Rehydrated**

The Royal Welsh Agricultural Society receives support, from recognised businesses who can provide additional water resources, if needed, at an event. Regular stock taking principles are undertaken to ensure resources are plentiful by the Administration department. Both Radnor Hills and Dwr Cymru hold long term relationships with the Society and have met the demand of extreme heat conditions in the past, by providing additional drinking water or a free resource for visitors, encouraging them to re-fill and rehydrate at the allocated water stations on site ([see map](#)). Such collaborative relationships are paramount to ensuring public safety and welfare when facilitating an event.

- **Advice**

Due to the very nature of event organising there are numerous groups of people to consider, ranging from the public, to exhibitors, stewards, staff and animals. Therefore, the below principles need to be communicated in variable settings from specific individuals. Corporately, mechanisms are in place within the RWAS that provide opportunities for such messages to be reinforced within the pre-planning

phase. Such as pre-contractual meetings, Livestock committees, Assistant Honary Director briefings and Chief Steward briefings.

Therefore, there is a collaborative responsibility and approach in ensuring such actions are undertaken, within the RWAS. It is especially important within contractual obligations for the welfare of contractual staff (gates, carparks, security), as well as within localised areas being overlooked by defined Chief Stewards, livestock areas, marques, buildings, main ring.

Contractors are responsible for maintaining staff welfare within their own organisation however, as representatives working on behalf of the society, this will be part of internal audits to ensure staff welfare is being adhered to. Access to clean water and shade is imperative, this is routinely discussed in pre-contractual meetings.

The below principles are advised for all in severe heat attending an event facilitated by the RWAS (adapted from Public Health Wales 2023).

Stay out of the heat

- *Try to stay indoors, especially between midday and 3pm*
- *Avoid strenuous outdoor activities, if this is not possible, do it during the cooler parts of the day*
- *Use sunscreens or sun blocks to help prevent sunburn*
- *Cover up with a t-shirt or other loose-fitting clothes*
- *Wear a hat to shade your head and sunglasses to protect your eyes*

Cool down

- *Drink plenty of water, at least eight glasses a day. Avoid alcohol, tea or coffee as they can make you dehydrated*
- *Splash your face with cold water to cool down.*

Keep your environment cool

- *Turn off non-essential lights and electrical equipment, if not required within permanent buildings - they generate heat*
- *Keep bowls of water in kitchens, permanent buildings or caravans- evaporation helps cool the air*
- *If possible, move into a cooler environment, especially for sleeping*
- *Electric fans may provide some relief, but only use if necessary*
- *Remain in the coolest parts of the building as much as possible*
- *Keep rooms shaded and cool by closing blinds and curtains and opening windows*
- *Look for areas that provide shade such as canopies and trees.*

Look out for others

- *Keep an eye on the elderly, ill or very young people and make sure they are able to keep cool.*
- *Ensure that babies, children, animals (such as dogs) or elderly people are not left alone in stationary cars (dogs found in cars from carparking/security staff will be rescued due to animal welfare principles).*
- *Check on elderly members of your group, family, or friends throughout the event day.*
- *Be alert and seek medical aid if someone is feeling unwell or further help is needed. Medical aid is available on site and can be escalated through Show Control if required (see Event Management Plan Appendix for the associated Medical Plan and medical aid onsite).*

If you have a health problem

- *If you suffer from a chronic condition or ill-health and anticipate that adverse weather conditions will be problematic for your wellbeing, the advice would be to stay at home.*

If you or others feel unwell

- *If you feel dizzy, weak, anxious or have intense thirst and headache, please seek medical help.*
- *Move to a cool place as soon as possible.*
- *Drink some water or fruit juice to rehydrate.*
- *Rest immediately in a cool place if you have painful muscular spasms (particularly in the legs, arms or stomach, in many cases after sustained exercise during very hot weather), drink plenty of water and juices. You may need additional electrolyte replacement and will need to seek a pharmacy for this (not available on site).*
- *Medical attention should be considered if heat cramps last more than one hour.*
- *Consult your doctor if symptoms persist.*

Dress Codes

It is advisable to dress for the anticipated weather, whether this is extreme heat, cold or wet. However, the RWAS for staff and Stewards follow strict dress code guidance during events, to maintain the professional identity and integrity of the Society.

During extreme heat the dress code will be relaxed for stewards and judges, except where it may compromise safety, such as personal protective equipment.

The Estate Manager is responsible for:

- Ensuring water supplies covering the whole Showground and caravan parks are marked as “suitable for drinking” or “not suitable for drinking” as appropriate.

- The control measures reflected in the Show's own pond safety risk assessment are implemented and that the risk assessment covering the pond and risk of drowning during the Show are received and properly implemented. Rescue Throwlines will be available around the Society's pond area.
- The stored portable fans have been portable appliance tested.
- The hire of additional fans.

The Estate Manager is also responsible for implementing the relevant aspects of this procedure for the Estate staff.

- Encouraging stewards to remain hydrated and to apply sunscreen/wear suitable headwear (sunscreen will be provided free of charge to Estate staff, stewards and judges and will be available from the Main Office or purchased from the Show shop, society shop or town centre. Head of Administration provides sunscreen for the main rings/towers and lost children marquee.
- The Chief Sectional Stewards must also make reasonable efforts to ensure that stewards within their individual sections are capable of taking frequent breaks from their work, particularly those involved in physical work, e.g. manual handling, or posted in indoor areas with poor ventilation.

Ensuring that supplies of water are maintained/delivered to key locations including the medical centre, lost children centre and control towers.

Advising Girl Guiding Cymru who man the Welcome Centres and Information Booths to advise visitors of the need to remain hydrated and to advise visitors to obtain sunscreen from the Show Shop located by the cattle building and The Society Merchandise Shop located under the Grandstand.

The Estate Manager will be responsible for:

- Arranging for dusty roads, tracks and paths to be "damped down".

The Royal Welsh Agriculture Society will provide signage relating to the need to stay hydrated and these will be posted at the Welcome Centres, Information Booths, Medical Centre and Lost Children Centre by the Estate staff.

The Environmental Health Consultant for the Show will ensure pre-vetting and Show monitoring the food hygiene of the catering outlets on site with regards to the demands placed upon refrigeration units.

Emergency suppliers of bottled water

The following suppliers have been asked to provide bottled water to the Showground in the event it is necessary.

- Radnor Hills

- Dŵr Cymru
- Prince's Gate – water cooling units supplied to main Towers, International Visitors Suite and Medical Centre

Welfare of Animals/livestock

The Assistant Honorary Director Livestock is responsible for liaising with the Show veterinary officers to ensure the continued welfare of the livestock.

Ventilation – The Estate Manager will be coordinating the installation of any additional Fans needed in the livestock buildings.

Water Supply – Adequate supply of water to livestock buildings and wash areas.

Timetable – Honorary Show Director and Assistant Honorary Directors to monitor and be flexible with judging and parade times.

Chief Stewards to monitor whether adequate cover for shade /temperature control is required and take appropriate action if needed for example sheep dog trial area and the collecting ring.

Car Parking

Dogs – Action will be taken if dogs are seen to be suffering in vehicles.

Additional actions will also be considered;

- Opening the Livestock Gate early in the event of livestock sitting in vehicles. Stewards will have to be in place to achieve this.
- Spraying the roof of the Pig Building with support from the Fire Service.
- Medical Centre additional provision for hot weather
- Contractors such as Security, PP and SEP must ensure adequate welfare provision for their operatives stood out on the road, etc.
- Provide Shaded areas for the public.

Dated: 5th June 2023

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