



SEVERE WEATHER POLICY

The City of Inver Grove Heights will use the following guidelines and procedures for how to handle extreme weather conditions in order to protect participants, spectators and staff. Inclement weather will affect programs and facilities differently based upon field/location, availability of shelter and the severity of weather. The Parks and Recreation Department retains the right to cancel or curtail activities due to extreme weather conditions. Information from the **National Weather Service** (NWS) will be utilized when ensuring that programs, activities and the Community Center can operate in a safe manner.

WEATHER UPDATES

City-sponsored programs, activities or building/shelter closings/cancellations will be posted the following ways. Outside rentals, organizations or school sports using city fields or facilities will be in charge of cancelling their own programs and notifying their audiences.

Updates will be posted at 4:30 p.m. on weekdays and an hour prior to scheduled activity on weekends. If the message is outdated, assume the activity you are inquiring about is on as scheduled. If conditions change after 4:30 p.m. on weekdays and less than an hour prior to weekend activity a decision will be made on-site.

- **Weather Line:** 651-450-2595
- **Website:** www.invergroveheights.org/weather
- **Email or Text:** You may sign up to receive email or text updates when a closure occurs.
 - On “Weather Updates” page (see above) click “Click Here” to subscribe
 - Follow the three steps under “Notify Me”
 - The list name to select is “Weather/Recreation Cancellations”
- Veterans Memorial Community Center building closings will also be communicated to WCCO TV/radio.

CANCELATIONS

- If a program or activity is canceled, makeup information will be communicated to participants within 72 hours.
- If a facility is closed due to weather conditions, renters will receive communication within 5 business days from Park and Recreation as to whether rental fees will be refunded or room will rescheduled.
- Community Center group fitness classes, open swim, skate or gym time will not be rescheduled. If fitness classes are canceled, daycare will also be unavailable.
- Daily admission refunds will be handed at the discretion of Manager on Duty.

ISD 199

- The Parks and Recreation Department is not responsible for events scheduled by the school district or State of Minnesota High School Sports that take place within City fields or facilities. Those outside organizations will be in charge of weather-related cancellations and notifying their participants.
- If School District 199 schools close due to inclement weather, city recreation programming **within school buildings** is cancelled.
- If School District 199 schools close before 3 p.m. and weather clears, please refer to WEATHER UPDATES (above) for program cancellations within the Community Center.

PROCEDURES FOR SPECIFIC WEATHER CONDITIONS

Listed below are different weather conditions and how they affect each activity, program or building areas.

1. **Severe Weather Warning:** In the case of severe weather sighted, a severe weather warning is issued, or a weather siren sounded, all unsheltered outdoor activities must be stopped.
2. **Severe Thunderstorm Warning:** Outside activities will cease or delay start if necessary. Classes or swimming in the pool will be canceled until the warning is ended.
3. **Lightning:** Upon the first sight of lightning or sound of thunder, all outdoor activity must stop immediately. No activity can resume outdoors until 30 minutes after the last sighting of lightning or sound of thunder. Programs may be moved indoors if possible.
4. **Tornado:** In the event of a tornado warning or sirens, seek the best possible shelter available immediately. Community Center will be evacuated and moved to locker rooms closest to area where the activity will take place.
5. **Heat:**
 - If the heat index is at or **above 110 degrees**, all outdoor Park & Recreation activities will be cancelled or moved to an indoor location if possible.
 - If the heat index is **below 110 degrees**, judgment will be made based on various program factors including activity level, type of activity, age of participants, availability of water and shade, etc.
6. **Severe Winter Weather:** Includes blizzard conditions, ice storm, extreme cold temperatures, snow accumulation and road closures. In the event of severe winter weather, Park and Recreation management staff will make a determination which areas will be canceled/closed **one hour before scheduled start time** (unless where noted otherwise). As always check the weatherline or weather updates posted online to confirm cancellation.
 - *Outdoor Activities/Programs* - may be canceled/postponed if temperature is -15 Degrees Fahrenheit (actual or wind chill)