



The Smoky Hill River Festival is an outdoor event that happens rain or shine, unless an emergency or threatening situation exists.

Saline County Emergency Management has direct access to the National Weather Service, and radar storm-spotting information is continually monitored on-site and provided to Festival Staff.

In the case of threatening weather, emergency communication will be made by Festival staff, working directly with Saline County Emergency Management and other City and County agencies.

Announcements will be made via:

- RecZone text/email service
- Stage II, Eric Stein Stage, and Arty's Stage
- Smoky Hill River Festival social media accounts and website
- Festival staff will provide weather condition updates to committees in all vendor and exhibiting areas
- Festival Staff will issue general directives for the public through RecZone

RecZone is a text/email service through Salina Parks & Recreation that lets us notify you directly of any weather, program, or announcements during the Festival.

Sign up for RecZone

<https://bit.ly/SHRENotifications>

Or scan QR Code to sign up.



1. Go to link/QR code above
2. Fill out general information
3. Select message format – Text or Email (or both)
4. Message Groups – Select Oakdale Park under News & Announcements
5. Scroll to the bottom of page, complete reCHAPCHA and click continue
6. Confirm registration by entering code sent to format selected in #3.
7. You can unsubscribe/update registration at the link/QR code above

If you are already registered with RecZone for Parks & Rec information, make sure you have selected Oakdale Park under News and Announcements to also receive Festival updates. This can also be done at the link or QR code above.

WeatherBug Lightning Alert System

A weather alert system (WeatherBug) is installed at Oakdale Park. A 15-second horn sound indicates that a threatening storm or lightning strike has been detected within the designated area.

What to do when the horns sounds:

All patrons at the facility will clear the open areas immediately to seek shelter*. All activities in the park will be suspended, and Festival Staff will provide directives, as outlined in the Inclement Weather Plan.



Inclement Weather Plan

In the case of inclement and threatening weather, emergency communication will be made by Festival staff, working directly with Saline County Emergency Management and other City and County agencies.

A weather alert system (WeatherBug) is installed at Oakdale Park. A 15-second horn sound indicates that a threatening storm or lightning strike has been detected within the designated area. A light indicator will flash until 30 minutes after the last lightning strike. When the flashing light turns off, it will send 3 short horn sounds indicating it is safe to resume activity in accordance with the Festival staff's determination to resume activities.

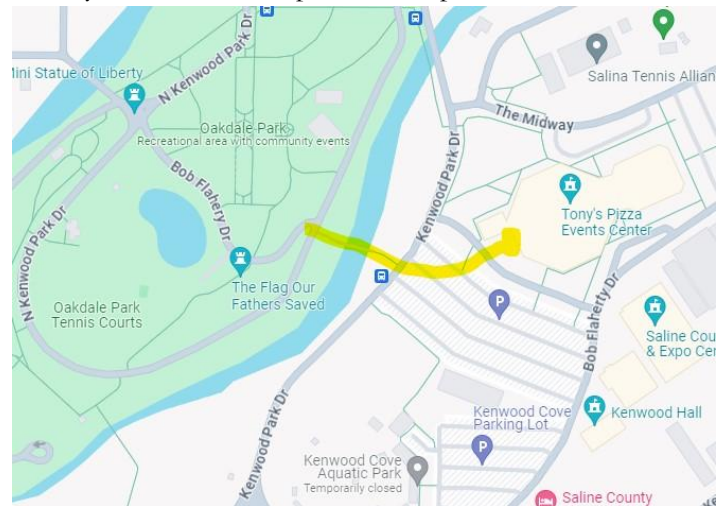
Possible directives could include:

1. **Delay:** if Festival staff determines that activities can resume in a reasonable amount of time (based on weather and park conditions), Festival activities may be delayed. The amount of time activities are delayed will be determined by Festival staff. At their discretion, attendees are free to leave utilizing any of the exits by foot or through Mulberry gate by vehicle.
2. **Temporary Suspension:** if Festival staff cancels/postpones activities and performances by location in the park based on weather forecast and park conditions. At their discretion, attendees are free to leave utilizing any of the exits by foot or through Mulberry gate by vehicle.
3. **Evacuate/Shelter*:** if Festival staff determines that threatening weather is in the area, evacuation of the park may be necessary.

IN THE CASE OF Evacuation/Shelter

In the event of an evacuation of the park, attendees, vendors, and volunteers shall calmly exit as directed. Possible directives include:

- a. Exit on foot, proceed to any five gates, and proceed to personal off-site shelter.
 - i. Those needing mobility assistance proceed immediately to the shuttle stop to exit the park.
- b. Exit by vehicle over Mulberry Bridge Exit: single lane, left turn only, as directed by staff and security.
- c. Exit by vehicle through Oakdale Temporary Exit: single lane, as directed by staff and security.
- d. Those who do not have access to personal off-site shelters or do not have time to travel off-site can shelter at Tony's Pizza Event Center.
 - i. Proceed to the backstage (south arena) door of Tony's Pizza Events Center via the TPEC Bridge. Festival staff in yellow vests and orange flags will direct attendees into the building concourse and further as directed.



***SHELTER** - An underground area like a basement or storm cellar. If an underground shelter is unavailable, consider the following: Seek a small interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible. Stay away from doors, windows, and outside walls. **Things that do NOT qualify as shelters on Festival grounds: Tents, Eric Stein Stage backstage rooms, park restrooms, RVs, or mobile buildings.**

If Staff calls for sheltering or evacuation, every person MUST leave the park or shelter in a designated space at Tony's Pizza Event Center.

Kansas Weather: Terms and Things to Know

In Kansas, storms can pass in and out of the area quickly. Summer thunderstorms often build up from late afternoon to early evening and pass through during nighttime hours. Here is a list of possible weather situations that could occur in Kansas during the Festival.

Types of Storms and Warnings:

Thunderstorms - storms that produce rain, some wind, with lightning possible

Severe Thunderstorms – thunderstorms capable of producing hail that is an inch or larger or wind gusts over 58 mph

Thunderstorm WATCH: Be Prepared! Severe thunderstorms are possible in and near the watch area. Stay informed and be ready to act if a severe thunderstorm warning is issued. The watch area is typically large, covering numerous counties or even states.

Thunderstorm WARNING: Take Action! Severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property. Take shelter in a substantial building. Get out of mobile homes that can blow over in high winds. Warnings typically encompass a much smaller area (around the size of a city or small county) that may be impacted by a large hail or damaging wind identified by an NWS forecaster on radar or a trained spotter/law enforcement watching the storm.

Tornadoes - violently rotating columns of air that extend from a thunderstorm to the ground. Tornadoes can destroy buildings, flip cars, and create deadly flying debris.

Tornado WATCH: Be Prepared! Tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area. Storms are developing regionally, so this is a standby situation with conditions that could produce thunderstorms, severe thunderstorm activity, or the development of a tornado that is not yet threatening the immediate area.

Tornado WARNING: Take Action! A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. There is imminent danger to life and property. Move to an interior room on the lowest floor of a shelter. Avoid windows. If you are in a mobile home, a vehicle, or outdoors, move to the closest substantial shelter and cover your head to avoid flying debris. Warnings typically encompass a much smaller area, around the size of a city or small county. Warnings are issued when a tornado is spotted on the ground or identified by a forecaster on radar.

Kansas Counties

*Salina is in North Central Saline County and surrounded by Lincoln County to the NW, Ottawa County to the N, Dickinson County to the E, Marion County to the SE, McPherson County to the S, Rice County to the SW, Ellsworth County to the West.

