



## **Safely Weathering a Storm**

Summer storms usually come and go in a matter of minutes, but these storms can be very dangerous. It is the desire of the Allen Neighborhood Center to avoid the possibility of cancelling the Farmers Market due to weather. Therefore, it is important that we all follow these steps to keep ourselves and valued patrons safe.

1. Before the start of a market the Market Manager will inform all vendors that there is the possibility that we will “weather a storm” during that day’s market.
  - a. This means that ALL vendors’ tents must be tied to cement blocks or other weights. It also may be beneficial to tie your tent to your vehicle or neighbor vendors.
  - b. Please inform the Market Manager if you do not have tie downs.
  - c. Secure all of your items and have a plan so that you can easily cover or move any vulnerable items (vulnerable to rain and wind).
  - d. Be prepared to abandon your items (seek safety in your vehicle or inside the center). Human life is more valuable than anything.
2. An inside staff will inform the Market Manager if there is a potentially dangerous storm headed our direction.
  - a. The MM will then inform all vendors that all transactions will be put on temporary hold so that staff and volunteers can escort patrons into the center. We would greatly appreciate if all vendors would encourage patrons to “weather the storm” in the center.
  - b. The MM will encourage all vendors to get into their cars for safety at the first sight of lightening, to “weather” the storm.
  - c. The MM will determine when it is safe to begin transactions.
3. Cancelling the Market
  - a. Again, we will do everything to avoid cancelling the market. This will only happen when we cannot ensure the safety of everyone involved.
  - b. The MM will only cancel the Market if there is enough time to tear down and ensure that all vendors and patrons can get to safety, before a serious storm hits.
  - c. Factors that contribute to a call to cancel the market may include frequent dangerous storms, a very wide storm, a storm deemed “severe” or “dangerous” by the National Weather Service.

## **According to the National Weather Service:**

If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning.

It is unsafe for anyone to be outdoors in a storm if you cannot count to 30 between a lightning flash and roll of thunder.

It is safe to go back outside, approximately 30 minutes after the last roll of thunder.