



Weather Policy 2026

Summary: This policy is to provide guidance to riders and ride leaders on how to make decisions regarding adverse weather conditions. If the Ride Leader is not comfortable with any adverse weather conditions, they will cancel it either prior to the ride start or during. Ride Leaders aim to announce ride cancellations via the CYQL App two (2) hours before the scheduled start of the ride.

Club rides will be **Cancelled** as an insured and sanctioned ride due to weather as forecast by Environment Canada in any of the following;

- There is a forecast of 70%, or more, of lightning / thunderstorms.
- Extremely high winds or gusts (40km/h+) on the day of the ride.
- The temperature (humidex value) is above 40°C.
- If the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) is at 7 or above.

Rides are on '**Weather Watch**' if:

- If winds are above 30km/h.
- If the humidex is above 35°C.
- If the AQHI is between 4–6.

A cancelled ride does not mean you cannot ride, it just means that we do not recommend you ride. For safety reasons the OWCC club cannot sanction it.

OWCC will ride in the rain. The group will adjust distances between riders accordingly. Ride Leaders are to cancel a ride if the rain is causing dangerous conditions (visibility, road conditions).

Special circumstances: Lightning and Thunder during a ride

Lightening and thunder can occur with little to no warning (i.e. not in the weather forecast) and is extremely dangerous. Should riders become aware of lightning or thunder during a ride;

The ride will be stopped, and shelter found. Thirty minutes must pass from the last clap of thunder or flash of lightning before riders may resume their event/activity. The next occurrence begins a new 30-minute cycle. No outdoor activities will be initiated when thunder and/or lightning is present. If thunder and lightning occur once activities have started, utilize the “flash-to-bang” method for determining the distance of lightning. Count the number of seconds between seeing the lightning and hearing the clap of thunder. If the time between “flash to bang” is 30 seconds or less, it is time to stop the event and seek shelter. A rough rule of thumb is lightning that is closer than 10km poses a risk to participants. The formula is roughly the time between “flash to bang” divided by 3 equals the distance away in KM. For example, if the time from flash to bang is 30 seconds, then the storm is 10 km away. For example, 30 seconds / 3 = 10km.



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The storm's distance and your location will determine when there is a need for evacuation to a safe shelter. A safe shelter is defined as a sturdy building that has metal plumbing or wiring, or both, to electrically ground the structure. A shed or a shack is not a safe shelter.

Stay away from tall or individual trees, lone objects (flagpoles), metal objects, standing pools of water, and open fields. Avoid close contact with others by maintaining a distance of 15-20 feet.

Allow 30 minutes to pass after the last sound of thunder or sight of lightning before resuming any outdoor activities, **INCLUDING WALKING OUTSIDE OF YOUR SHELTER.**