

Weather/Power/Tornado Cancellation Policy

New Community Church

Drafted March 2015

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In the event of severe weather, power outage or other emergency, gatherings and activities at New Community Church will be canceled according to this policy. In general, be prepared for cancellations if Winter Storm Warnings are posted in the Montgomery, Greene and Clark County regions. To find out if an event at New Community is canceled, there are four methods used to notify members and friends:

1. On our Facebook page
2. Our website: www.newcommunity.family
3. Our church phone outgoing message: (937) 250-1427.
4. Our staff, house church shepherds & Breeze distribution list will be contacted via email & text.

Severe Weather Cancellation Policy

1. A quorum of 3 New Community gathering leaders (i.e. Staff Team Lead, Gathering Worship Leader, Family Ministry Team Lead, Preaching Team Lead) may collectively decide to cancel one or more weekend gatherings due to inclement weather **at the 2 hour mark** prior to the beginning of the gathering. For example, Sunday 9am decisions would be made at 7am; and Sunday 10:45am decisions would be made at 8:45am. Cancellation of weekend gatherings **will be mandatory** if the county in which the gathering is held is at a Level 2 or 3 emergency status **within 2 hours** of the beginning of the gathering. When gatherings are canceled staff should record time typically worked that day.
2. If a New Community event or gathering is canceled the Staff Team Lead or a designee will inform the staff and elder chair, along with those who are responsible to effect the four notifications, as listed above, at least two hours prior to start time of the gatherings or other ministry activities.

Possible factors to consider when canceling a weekend gathering or ministry related event include projected condition of streets, parking areas, predicted snowfall levels, icy road conditions, flooding, high winds and availability of personnel to safely carry out a gathering or ministry related event. Consideration should be given to weather conditions throughout all three regions in the network when making a cancellation decision. One gathering location may cancel while another chooses to close based on local conditions.

3. In the case of a Level 1 Snow Emergency roadways are hazardous and motorists should drive with extreme caution. A sustained snowfall of about 2-4 inches will likely cause a Level One Snow Emergency to be declared in some counties in Ohio. Weekend Gatherings will typically not be canceled during a Level 1 Snow Emergency. In the case of a Level 2 Snow Emergency, driving is discouraged and a sustained snowfall of about 4-8 inches will likely cause a Level Two Snow Emergency to be declared in some counties in Ohio. In the case of a Level 2 or Level 3 Snow Emergency all ministry activities will automatically be canceled.
4. Weekday cancellation and closures will be as follows. If Xenia public schools (Xenia location) are closed for the day, all daytime events and activities at the church facility will automatically be canceled. If classes at Xenia public schools are dismissed early due to weather/power, church events and activities will also be canceled. If evening classes or programs at Xenia public schools are canceled, all evening events and activities will be canceled at New Community facilities.
5. The church office may or may not be open during weather- or power-related cancellations.

Tornado Watch/Warning Policy

Watch - If a tornado watch is put into effect, all church activities will be terminated and the church building will be evacuated. If a tornado watch is not lifted at least one hour prior to a meeting or scheduled activity, the meeting or activity will be canceled.

Warning - If a tornado warning is put into effect, all meetings or activities in New Community buildings will be canceled and the building will be cleared. Leaders should take great care, particularly with children, that everyone has a means of reaching a place of safety. Our buildings are not considered safe in the event of a tornado and people should remain in it only as a last resort.

We do our best to make decisions based on what we feel is safe and reasonable for both the volunteers and those attending. There may be times when you feel that travel conditions are too dangerous for you to take the risk to drive to a New Community gathering or event. Though we value the programs and opportunities that we provide here at New Community, we value your safety even more. In the event that you are scheduled to volunteer in a ministry role and you are concerned that you cannot make it safely to the facility, please contact the head of that ministry or the New Community office as soon as possible and we will make arrangements to make sure that your role is taken care of. Please understand that we will try to make the best judgment we can for the majority of people, but that we want you to ultimately feel the freedom to make your decision when it comes to your safety.