

RAIN AT YOUR EVENT



Will it rain? Bureau of Meteorology three hourly forecasts for local areas in Tasmania are made six days in advance. Air temperature, wind speed and direction are important as well as the chance of rain.

Cold wet windy weather increases hypothermia risk. Curiously, bringing an extra tent seems to decrease the chance of significant rain. If a BOM severe weather warning has been issued or the weather could be dangerous, consider cancelling the event. See cancellation guidelines [here](#)

If the weather will indeed be grim and the show will go on, above all else try to retain a positive attitude. Whistling the closing tune in “Life of Brian” by Monty Python has been helpful to some.

At bush events, road access, registration site and creek crossings may need checking before the event if rain has been persistent or severe. Extra helpers, signs or other gear may be needed.

At an urban event, you may be lucky enough to move to an area under existing cover and redirect entrants appropriately.

If not you will typically need to take two tents from the shed to deal with significant rain. Check that you have a black weight bag for each tent corner pole. Bags are usually preferred to guy ropes.

Add a fabric gutter with drain pipe attachment to join two tent roofs together plus a couple of tarpaulins and extra brake discs weights. A tent wall may be useful too. Check the document box for clear plastic map bags.



When you pick up the printers and computers from the Sportident Officer, get the clear plastic rain cover for the printer crate. And a raincoat for the yellow EMIT start clock if yours is an OST event. The start clock is not waterproof and had to be sent back to Norway for repair recently after rain damage.

While still in the shed, load the tents and weight bags in the trailer last. So when you get to the event site the first job is to erect the tents partly over the trailer and have a dry area to unload and arrange the gear. Be careful to keep the weight bags and heavier items at the front of the trailer or it may become dangerously unbalanced when being towed.

Site the trailer in a sheltered but slightly elevated area avoiding mud. Its IMPORTANT that the right side (viewed from the back) with the lift up door is facing away from the prevailing wind. This will greatly reduce the amount of rain that gets into the open side where the printers and the shivering computer operator are sitting. Electrical equipment must be kept dry. You can erect a tent over this side of the trailer and join it with another tent via a fabric gutter to



maximise the effective dry area for all participants.



A gravel weight bag needs to be placed on each tent corner pole at the same time the tent is erected. In the past tents have been blown away and damaged after an unexpected gust, during the brief time at setup and takedown when they were not secured.

Keep all gear not being used under cover, either under the trailer or a tarpaulin held down by brake disc weights. In the hurry to unload and set up the event for entrants its easy to leave gear in the open which will quickly become wet. Periodically check that water is not accumulating in a sagging tent roof, risking an unexpected deluge to whoever or whatever is below.

If you have internet reception, rain radar maps at various scales are very useful on the day as they are updated continuously. You will be alerted to prepare for a deluge in half an hour. Or that you can relax, the storm passing 5kms to the north.

If its still raining when the event is over pack the tents last to keep things dry while you pack up.

When back in the shed, partly unfold the tent frames so the tents dry. Hang flags from the clotheslines overhead and spread out any damp items such as start finish banners or they will get mouldy. Paper documents in particular. Open the trailer doors so things dry out inside. Clean up what you can.



At home have a hot shower and a glass of red in front of the fire. And glow in the appreciation of the finishers for your excellent courses.

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