

## **LIGHTNING & THUNDERSTORM EVENT - EVACUATION PLAN FOR DIDDAMS CLOSE**

This evacuation plan covers a lightning/thunderstorm event:

- before an aquathlon race is started, while a race is in progress, and
- after a race has finished.

This plan is specific to races being conducted at Diddams Close and is based on the Triathlon Australia (TA) Lightning Policy.

### **Decision to Evacuate the Race Site and Race Courses**

1. The decision to evacuate the race courses and the race site will be a joint decision made by the Race Director and the Race Referee and will be based on their assessment of the imminent risk of lightning occurring.
2. The Race Director will advise all Race Personnel via the radio network or mobile phone that the race site or the race site and the race courses are to be evacuated. Any race in progress is to be stopped and will not continue or re-start after the danger has passed.
3. The Race Director will immediately inform the race commentator to announce, over the Public Address system, the information at Attachment 1.
4. If the evacuation occurs before a race has started, the Race Director and Race Referee are to assess the risks and timeliness of starting the race after the storm has passed.

### **Shelter Locations**

Primary and secondary shelters are shown on the map at Attachment 2

#### **Race Site Shelters:**

1. The primary shelter for supporters and athletes closest to the Diddams Close race site (e.g. transition area, finish area, swim start and swim exit) is the public carpark located on John Cardiff Close.  
Athletes and spectators can access the shelter at the Public toilets next to transition. The location of the public toilets is RS1 on the Attachment 2 Map.
  - a. Athletes and supporters who have parked their vehicles in this carpark may seek shelter inside their vehicle (fully enclosed metal vehicle with windows up.)  
The location of the public cark is RS2 on the Attachment 2 Map.
  - b. A secondary shelter located at the race site is the off-road carpark and is located at RS3 on the Attachment 2 Map.

#### **Run Course Shelters:**

1. The primary shelter for runners, supporters and officials on the run course closest to the finish area is RS1 or RS2.
2. The primary shelter for runners, supporters and officials further along the run course is limited due to trees along the length of the run. Finding areas without trees will be the first point of -call unless they are near the transition area where RS1 and RS2 are suitable

## **Role of Race Crew, Event Staff, Technical Officials & Briefed Volunteers**

If a lightning and thunderstorm event is likely the Race Director is to brief all of the abovementioned people plus the race commentator (all called Race Personnel in this document) on their roles in the evacuation plan, before race day.

### **Race Personnel tasks:**

- Clear transition of competitors and direct them to the shelter/s.
  - Direct and guide all competitors, supporters and members of the public to the nearest shelter/s including those swimmers who are exiting the swim course at the swim exit. Race Personnel are to use the whistles issued to them to attract the attention of the people they
  - are guiding or directing.
- Those Race Personnel on the respective courses are to advise competitors that the race is
  - stopped and of the nearest shelter and how to get there.
- The Race Director, Race Referee and Course Managers are responsible for guiding the Race
  - Personnel under their immediate management to safety.
- The Race Commentator is to be given a copy of the emergency instructions that he/she is to
  - announce.
  - After the Race Director and the Race Referee have agreed that the danger has passed, they are to inform Race Personnel what happens next.

### **Race Site Evacuation Procedure**

1. Evacuation of the race site may occur before, during or after the race/s.
2. Immediately after the decision to evacuate is made and the decision is communicated to Race Personnel, the commentator is to start the announcement and Race Personnel are to go to their evacuation positions.
3. All supporters, competitors and members of the public are to be directed and guided by Race Personnel to the nearest shelter, RS1, RS2 and RS3

### **Race Course Evacuation Procedure**

Race Personnel are to immediately implement the race course evacuation plan. Their first action is to blow their whistles to attract competitors' and supporters' attention. They are then to direct and guide supporters, competitors and members of the public to the nearest shelter.

### **Swim Course**

1. Any competitors who have not started the race are to be told to evacuate the area as per instructions below, depending on their location.
2. Competitors who are at the swim start area and waiting for their swim wave to enter the water are to immediately proceed to the nearest shelter as advised by race crew or technical officials.
  - Race crew and technical officials are to guide and accompany all competitors and volunteers to the prescribed shelter.
  - If advised by the safety boat crew that swimmers are heading back to the swim start, swim start crew and officials are to ensure that someone remains at the swim start so that they can advise and guide swimmers to the nearest shelter.

3. The swim course manager or race crew in the IRB are to immediately advise swimmers and water safety people that:
  - the race is stopped
  - swim immediately to the swim finish or the swim start (whichever is closest) and seek
  - shelter under cover
  - boat crew are to advise swim start crew if swimmers are heading back to the swim start.
4. When swimmers and water safety people arrive at the swim finish they are to be guided to shelter by Race Personnel

#### **Run Course**

1. Runners who are between the run turnaround and the finish area are to either: Avoid areas with trees, or seek shelter inside the public toilet block (RS1) or, seek shelter in cars in the carpark (RS2), whichever is closer
2. Runners who are at or nearest to the finish area are to proceed to the nearest shelter as directed by Race Personnel. (RS1 or RS2).

#### **When the Storm Danger Has Ended**

1. When the Race Director and the Race Referee both agree that the danger has passed, Race Personnel are to be briefed on what is to occur next.
2. If the race has been stopped, all competitors are to be directed to make their way back to the race site and transition where they are to enter transition and collect their gear.
  - a. Competitors can then exit transition with their gear – timing tags are to be collected as competitors leave transition.
  - b. The competitor's timing tag number will be checked against the number on the bike that they are taking out of transition.

This procedure will assist us to account for all competitors.

## **Attachment 1**

### **Race Site Evacuation Announcement**

There is an imminent threat of a severe electrical storm and the race is being stopped/ won't be started/ delayed until the danger has passed Evacuation of this area is to start immediately. All competitors that are on the course are now being advised to seek shelter either on the course or to come back to transition if they are close to here. All people in this area must immediately go to the nearest emergency shelter which is inside their vehicle if you've parked in the Diddams Close public carpark or under the Public Toilets verandah. Race Personnel in high-vis vests will guide you to the shelters, please follow their instructions. Remain in the shelter until you are advised by:

- Race Personnel that it is safe to leave.
- Once you are advised that it is safe to leave the shelter you can come back to this area.

## Attachment 2 - Emergency Shelter Map – Black Mountain Peninsula

