



SEVERE WEATHER POLICY

Last Revised: April 2023

This policy is arranged in 5 sections:

- A) General statement of policy
- B) Organisation and responsibilities
- C) Arrangements
- D) Revisions
- E) Appendices

In this document, the term 'crew' refers to paid and volunteer members of staff, or any person working on or with The Stage Bus at any given time.

In this document, the term 'company' refers to The Stage Bus Ltd unless otherwise stated. In addition, any reference to The Stage Bus is also to be taken as reference to The Stage Box, and vice versa, unless otherwise stated.

In this document, the pronouns 'they', 'them', and 'their' are used in the singular in place of pronouns such as 'he/she' or 'him/her'. It is assumed that the provisions set out in this document apply equally to individuals of any and all genders, unless otherwise specified.

SECTION A

GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Stage Bus policy, so far as is reasonably practicable, is to provide and maintain safe and healthy working conditions, equipment, and systems of work for all employees, casual labourers, and voluntary helpers, and to provide such information, training, and supervision as they need for this purpose.

The company will also endeavour to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of all contractors, members of the public, and others who may make use of or be otherwise affected by the activities of The Stage Bus.

The company recognises that severe weather conditions can have an adverse impact on the health and safety of individuals, as well as the integrity of equipment, structures, and machinery. In the event that a severe weather event occurs, the company is of the opinion that the safety and well-being of employees, casual labourers, voluntary helpers, and all other crew members and operatives, is of the highest priority.

The policy aims to provide an overview of the potential risks of particular types of severe weather, as well as the mitigations put in place by the company to minimise these risks. The allocation of duties for safety matters, and the particular arrangements that the company make to implement this, are set out below.

All company equipment, vehicles, and stages are made to be hard-wearing, and are therefore unlikely to experience difficulty in all but the most extreme of weather events. However, The Stage Bus recognises that, in order to best protect the health and safety of individuals involved, preparation is important.

SECTION B

ORGANISATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Overall Responsibility:

Overall responsibility for severe weather operation is that of Andrew Teverson.

Andrew Teverson is also responsible for ensuring standards are maintained and improved, and will be familiar with all relevant regulations and policies as far as they concern the operation of The Stage Bus.

Crew Responsibility:

Day-to-day responsibility for ensuring this policy is put into practice during event operation lies with all members of crew, but particularly with the designated Project Manager.

Each crew member accepts responsibility for their own safety, and the safety of others who may be affected by their activities.

All operations and duties should be carried out in a safe and sensible way, with consideration given to the current weather conditions, and in accordance with all relevant guidelines.

SECTION C

ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY

This section sets out arrangements to recognise and minimise, as far as is reasonably practicable, risks that may arise from severe weather events.

Flooding

Flooding occurs when there is an overflow of a large amount of water beyond its normal limits, especially over what is normally dry land. A flood is characterised by the covering or submergence of an area of land with water. A flood can lead to disrupted transport networks including roads, power cuts, and damage to structures and infrastructure.

A flood can also cause contamination of water supplies, including wells and ground water, as well as risk of disease, injury, and drowning. Floods can disrupt access of emergency services and delivery of health and safety services.

Importantly for company activities, floods can be sudden or unexpected, and water levels can rise rapidly, meaning that acting quickly is crucial in the event of a flood.

The risk of a flood disrupting company operations is low. The Stage Bus vehicles and equipment are elevated off the ground such that they are unlikely to be submerged.

Additionally, the company monitors the geographical area prior to a given event. As part of this monitoring, at-risk flood areas are identified, as well as alternative access and egress routes. Crew members are also expected to monitor the weather forecasting prior to, and during, an event, especially if the event is taking place in an at-risk area for flooding.

Wind

High winds can cause damage to equipment and structures, and injury to individuals. Increased wind speeds can cause difficulties for those with poor mobility, and flying debris can cause injury.

In the event of high winds, The Stage Bus stages are wind-rated to operate in 60mph winds, and can be erected and deconstructed in 25mph winds. If wind speeds are higher than 60mph, company policy is to cease operation, and only deconstruct the stage once it is safe to do so.

In high winds, the operation of the stage is at the discretion of the Project Manager. The Project Manager is expected to be aware of conditions on-stage, and to cease operation if the stage becomes unsafe for crew or third parties. The Project Manager is also expected to appropriately store loose objects and equipment where necessary, to avoid objects being picked up by wind.

In 2022, the average wind speed in the UK was 9.8mph, with the average wind speed during the company's busiest periods, June, July, and August, being 8.4mph. For stage operation to be impaired, wind speeds would need to reach more than double their average. For this reason, stage operation being impaired due to high winds is unlikely.

Thunderstorms

Storms are marked by the combination of heavy rains, strong winds, hail, thunder and lightning affecting a region for at least 5 hours. Several factors determine the severity of storms, including wind speed and intensity, and duration. Damage to infrastructure and disruption to transport is likely, and there can be risk to safety.

Storms can be forecast with some accuracy 3-4 days in advance, allowing time for mitigating actions to be taken. All vehicles and stages operated by The Stage Bus are capable of operating during storms, and the Project Manager has final responsibility for ensuring conditions on the stage are not too dangerous for operation to continue.

During rainy weather, the stage roof provides some level of cover, but it is still likely that performers and crew will get wet. The Stage Bus vehicles and equipment are capable of operation during rainy weather, but the Project Manager may be expected to clear excess water from the stage floor at regular intervals.

In the event that The Stage Bus must stop operating due to a storm, it is likely that similar decisions will have been taken by event organisers, and that the whole event will have to cease activity.

Snow, Frost, and Ice

Snow is defined as solid precipitation which occurs in a variety of minute ice crystals at temperatures well below 0°C and larger snowflakes at temperatures near 0°C. A ground frost refers to the formation of ice on the ground, objects or trees whose surface have a temperature below the freezing point of water. During situations when the ground cools quicker than the air, a ground frost can occur without an air frost. An air frost occurs when the air temperature falls to or below the freezing point of water.

Snow, frost, and ice can cause disruption to travel and event infrastructure. Stage surfaces can also become slippery, and there is potential for cold temperatures to disrupt stage operation by damaging the electric and hydraulic systems.

The Stage Bus operates largely during the summer months and warmer periods of the year, meaning that company operations are unlikely to be regularly disrupted by snow, frost, and ice. However, there are times when operation during cold weather is unavoidable. The Stage Bus equipment is insulated against the cold, and the stage surface is made of non-slip materials.

Fog

In foggy conditions, visibility can be heavily reduced, causing risks while working on an active event site. The Project Manager is expected to ensure the stage and vehicle are visible from all angles, especially while construction or deconstruction is taking place, taking particular care in low-visibility conditions to ensure that unauthorised individuals have not approached the stage.

Heatwave

High temperatures are a health risk that is unavoidable when working in the summer. High temperatures can damage equipment, and cause heatstroke and dehydration in crew. All

company equipment is rated for operation in high temperatures, and heat-proofing is used where necessary.

Event organisers are expected to provide drinking water, but the Project Manager is advised to bring their own with them as well. Additionally, the stage itself provides some degree of shade from the weather, and crew are encouraged to use this whenever reasonably possible during hot weather.

Electrical Safety Measures

A variety of severe weather events can have an adverse impact on the operation of electrical equipment, and this can lead to danger to life. The Stage Bus operates a rigorous electrical safety programme to ensure that even in the most severe of weathers, company equipment does not become dangerous to those using it.

All stages are equipped with 30miliamps RCD protection to protect against electric shock. Additionally, all metal elements are bonded to earth to ensure efficient automatic disconnection of supply in the event of a problem. Electrical connectors that are used outside of the sheltered area of stages at mains voltage are appropriately splash proofed using commando-style plugs and sockets.

All electrical equipment is regularly checked and inspected to ensure correct operation. Furthermore, a PAT testing regime is in place, with inspection frequency determined by risk levels.

Project Manager Responsibility

Due to the nature of The Stage Bus operations, much of the response to severe weather events is at the discretion of the Project Manager. All crew members who serve in this capacity are given appropriate training, and the company provides all necessary PPE and other equipment if necessary.

The Project Manager is expected to monitor the weather forecast prior to an event, and take any necessary precautions, including planning alternate routes, leaving additional travel time, requesting relevant PPE, and asking for advice where their own knowledge is lacking.