



2024 SHE RUNS GRAND RAPIDS HALF MARATHON, 10K AND 5K Hazardous Weather and Evacuation Protocol

SHE RUNS Grand Rapids (SRGR) may be delayed up to one hour from the 8:00 a.m. (EST) start time due to hazardous weather or environmental conditions. After one hour, if conditions are still deemed too hazardous, the event will be canceled, and no refunds will be provided. Cancellation of the event will be determined by SRGR officials in conjunction with the Grand Rapids Police Department and the City of Grand Rapids Office of Special Events.

FOG. If a heavy fog is present 15 minutes prior to the start time that substantially reduces visibility on the course and surrounding streets, event officials should determine if a delay until visibility has improved or a cancellation to ensure the safety of event participants and volunteers is required.

HEAT. Temperatures above 80 degrees can make completing SHE RUNS Grand Rapids problematic. Dressing appropriately in light-colored, moisture-wicking clothing, hydrating during the week leading into the event, drinking at least some water at each Aid Station and potentially slowing down to conserve resources can be helpful to avoid heat exhaustion. A color-coded Event Alert System (EAS) will communicate the status of course conditions to participants on race day. The levels range from Low (green) to Moderate (yellow) to High (red) to Extreme (black) based primarily on the weather, as well as other conditions. You will find these flags at Aid Stations along the route. If you begin to feel overheated, stop running or walking at the nearest Aid Station and allow the University of Michigan Health-West staff to check you out before resuming your event.

LIGHTNING. An electrical storm in the race course area within one hour of the 8:00 a.m. start should be considered potentially life threatening to participants, volunteers and spectators. In addition, timing mats will be turned off if lightning occurs as they can transport an electrical shock to those crossing the mats. A determination will be made by 7:30 a.m. as to whether the race should be continued as scheduled, delayed until the storm has passed or canceled altogether. While the determination is being made, any participants, volunteers and spectators already on site will be directed by event emcees, staff and key volunteers, and the Grand Rapids Police Department, to take shelter in their vehicles.

SEVERE WEATHER WATCHES AND WARNINGS. If there is a severe weather watch (thunderstorm, tornado, etc.) within two hours of start time and/or during the event, SRGR staff will work with the National Weather Service and the City of Grand Rapids Office of Special Events to monitor the situation while continuing to move forward with the event. If there is a severe weather warning, the National Weather Service will sound their siren for a tornado warning but not for a thunderstorm warning. As soon as weather is labeled "severe" by the National Weather Service, event emcees, staff and key volunteers will direct those at the start/finish line and/or Finish Line Festival to evacuate to their vehicles. If time allows, key staff will also unplug any electrical equipment in the area. Once the warning has passed, the Office of Special Events and the Grand Rapids Police Department will assist staff in determining whether or not the event can continue or be canceled with no refunds provided.

Be in the know and register for emergency alerts today. The Grand Rapids Office of Emergency Management and Public Safety Departments encourage all residents, businesses and visitors to [sign up for emergency alerts](#). Alerts include weather warnings, water boil notices, evacuation notices, and other emergency messages. For the event address, use 1300 Fulton Street W, Grand Rapids, MI 49504.

NON-WEATHER RELATED HAZARD. Occasionally, a situation may arise that could negatively impact the race course and/or surrounding area. If this happens in the two hours prior to the 8:00 am start (i.e. residential/commercial fire, multi-vehicle accident, etc.) and the event can be re-routed around the situation, the continuation of the event and/or a one hour delay should be considered. If, however, a situation develops near start time that cannot be negated with minimal rerouting and/or a delay, the race could be canceled and no refunds provided. If an emergency situation arises which may impact the start/finish line and/or Finish Line Festival, event emcees, staff and key volunteers will direct participants to back to their vehicles or to alternative locations (John Ball Zoo buildings, etc.).