

Extreme Heat & Smokey Markets

The foremost concern of VFM is the safety of our vendors, staff, shoppers and all other participants. At all times during operation in extreme weather conditions, safety should be of paramount concern.

Extreme heat is defined as any market reaching temperatures 35C or above.

If you have underlying health conditions that leave you at-risk to overheating or smokey conditions, please know your limitations - cancel the market if needed and stay safe.

Be prepared!

...at markets with extreme heat

- **Bring lots of water:** be prepared and bring extra water for yourself and your staff. It's recommended to have cool water with plenty of ice available.
- **Know where to refill water:** not all markets have nearby access to water. If you do not know where the nearest water access point is, please reach out to the market manager for recommendations on where to refill water in advance of market day.
- **Wear cool clothing:** loose fitting clothing that is light in colour can reduce the risk of overheating. Large-brimmed hats can also help reduce sun exposure.
- **Take breaks from the sun:** be aware of any staff that may be in sunny spots (sampling, restocking) and ensure that anyone exposed to sun receives frequent breaks in the shade.
- **Have sunscreen available:** wear sunscreen and reapply throughout the day.

...at markets with smokey skies

- **Wear a mask:** N95 masks are recommended, however any mask will help

Closing a market early is viewed as a last resort. Closing early is not a decision that is made lightly and requires everyone to work together for the safety of everyone. If there is a forecast for extreme heat, please monitor your inboxes for a potential early closure message. While VFM strives to give vendors at least 48 hours notice for market cancellations, last minute changes may occur, up to the evening before.

In the case of having to close a market early on market day, your cooperation is required and rule violations will be issued for vendors who do not follow the market managers directions.

If closing a market early due to extreme high temperatures or smoky skies:

- Follow the direction of the market manager and market staff
- Staff will ring the bell to signify the close
- Finish the sale you are on and start end of day packing up procedures
- Instruct shoppers that the market is closed and they need to leave the site
- Volunteers/Staff will be at entrances preventing new shoppers from entering the site
- Staff will use a megaphone to alert shoppers of the closure and ask them to leave the Site
- Skip end of day tasks (vendor reports, payments, market money - we will follow up later)
- End of day 20 minute rule doesn't apply in early closures, tear down, await further instruction
- When all shoppers have cleared the market, the market manager will green light for vendor load out to begin when it is safe

Thanks for helping keep markets safe!