



## Christiansburg Farmers Market Regulations

The mission of the Christiansburg Farmers Market is to provide convenient access to fresh, agricultural-based foods and products to the Christiansburg community and surrounding area. Its mission also is to provide a direct sales outlet for local farmers and agricultural-product producers. The Christiansburg Farmers Market aims to foster community engagement through programs and events that promote healthy eating, nutritional education, and sustainability, while contributing to a vibrant downtown by serving as a community-gathering place.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Christiansburg Parks and Recreation Department at [agilmore@christiansburg.org](mailto:agilmore@christiansburg.org) or (540) 382-2349 extension 2017.

### FARMERS MARKET ELIGIBILITY

Participation is open to regional Virginia growers, harvesters, bakers, and makers of prepared food (hereafter, referred to as “the vendors”). The Market strives to be a producers-only market but may make some exceptions. Vendors must participate in the production of the product they sell, and all products must be locally produced unless the vendor receives an exception from the Market Manager. Locally produced is defined by a 100-mile radius of the Christiansburg Recreation Center (1600 N. Franklin St.), though sale of agricultural products outside the 100-mile radius may be permitted. Determination of eligibility is made by the Market Manager. *Note: Please remember that application to the Market does not guarantee acceptance into the Market. All applicants will be notified of the status of their application in a timely manner.*

### MARKET DATES, DAY & HOURS OF OPERATIONS

The Christiansburg Farmers Market (hereafter, referred to as “the Market”) will be open, rain or shine, on Thursdays, May through October from 3 to 7 p.m., though the Farmers Market hours may be adjusted and/or extended in relation to busy growing season. Additionally, the Christiansburg Farmers Market will operate additional Holiday and Winter Markets as determined by the Town.

### LOCATION

The Market is in the parking lot of the Christiansburg Recreation Center at 1600 N. Franklin Street, Christiansburg, VA.

### MARKET MANAGEMENT

The Market Manager or a representative for the Market Manager will be present at the Market during operation. If questions or problems arise on Market Day, they will be resolved by the Market Manager, or at the Manager’s discretion.

### APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS & AGREEMENTS, CERTIFICATIONS, PERMITS & FEES

*Vendors shall provide the following information along with their application:*

1. Farm address.
2. A copy of crop and product plans for the upcoming growing season.
3. Proof of liability insurance for the establishment.
4. Current copy of W-9 tax form.
5. Virginia Sales Tax Number. Although the Market does not collect or report sales tax from vendors, all vendors are responsible for collecting these taxes at the Market, and it is the responsibility of the vendor to submit Virginia State Sales Taxes.
6. Copies of certifications/permits (if applicable).
7. A copy of land lease and/or partnership agreements (if applicable). If the property farmed is leased or in a partnership, the applicant must submit the information listed above, as well as land use agreements.

#### *Property and Facility Visits/Inspections*

On-site visits are a chance for the vendor to highlight the skills and techniques that are the foundation of their business. The Market Manager or Market Representative(s) may inspect any of the Market’s vendors’ farms and kitchens to verify compliance with the producer-only and food safety inspection rules. All visits will be scheduled by the Market Manager and/or Market Representative(s) and the vendor, during normal business hours. Failure to permit an on-site inspection may result in suspension from the Market.

#### *Town Business License*

All vendors at the Christiansburg Farmers Market are exempt from Town Business License requirements for their approved activity **strictly** at the Farmers Market, however, this does not exempt vendors’ activities at any other location from Town Business License requirements.

### *Sales Tax*

All vendors are required to have a Virginia State Sales and Use Tax Certification number. Vendors must collect these taxes at the Market, and it is the responsibility of the vendor to submit Virginia State Sales Taxes. Vendors are subject to report their sales tax on any Market Day at the discretion of the Market Manager or Market Committee.

### *Liability Insurance*

The Market requires vendors to be covered by insurance. For vendors selling and producing any food-based items, the minimum liability requirement is \$1,000,000. For vendors selling and producing non-food-based items, the minimum liability requirement is \$500,000. All vendors are required to provide an up-to-date copy of this insurance certificate with their application.

### *Certificates*

When applicable, attach the appropriate state/USDA inspection certificates.

- Organic growers must present a Certificate of Organic Production from the USDA Organic Farm Certification. Only vendors with proper certification are allowed to advertise as organic or use the term “organic.” Non-certified vendors shall not use the term “organic” in any description of their products, though they may refer to their products as naturally grown or similar.
- For dairy products and meats, the producer must supply documentation of compliance with local Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) ordinances and inspections.
- For fish and seafood, the vendor must submit proof of a commercial fishing license.

### *Fees & Reporting*

- Vendor fees collected are for promotion and operation of the Market. All fees shall be paid to the Town of Christiansburg and collected through the Farmers Market Manager. A \$25 fee is due for special markets (Fourth of July and Christmas at the Market). Regular vendors shall be exempt from this fee only if they have attended 75% of the regular season market dates.
- **Vendor sales reporting is required for individual vendors** for Farmers Market planning, funding, and tracking purposes. If it is found that a vendor is not accurately reporting their weekly sales, they may be suspended from the Market. The Farmers Market Manager will provide a sales sheet to be turned in at the end of each Farmers Market. Individual vendor sales will not be shared. Each vendor is assigned a number that correlates with their business name. Only the Market Manager knows individual vendor sales. Accurate sales reporting is vital to assisting with funding for the Market.

### *Market & “Hold Harmless” Agreement*

This agreement means that the vendor verifies that all information is accurate and will hold the Market Manager, Volunteers and the Town of Christiansburg harmless concerning product liability or other factors that relate specifically to the vendor’s business practice.

### *Compliance*

Anyone may report a suspected violation to the Farmers Market Manager. The Market Manager will enforce all policies and procedures in the Market and report any violations. The Market Manager will review violations of these Market Policies and Regulations. Any vendor found not in compliance will be given a written notice and shall be expected to comply immediately.

- Food Truck and/or Food Vendors need to be inspected and approved by the Fire Marshal and Health Department.
- All vendors are to follow the Town of Christiansburg Weather Policy and Farmers Market Inclement Weather Plan (attached).

### **SPACE ASSIGNMENT, SETUP & TAKE DOWN**

The Market Manager will make the assignment of spaces, approve the use of vehicles, and design the business operation “mix” of all the selling spaces to enhance the total operation of the Market.

- Vendors may begin to setup at 1:30 p.m. and are required to complete setup 15 minutes prior to the opening of the Market at 3 p.m. **Vendors that have not arrived by 2:30 p.m. will not be given access to the Market due to safety concerns of moving vehicles in the Market area during set-up.**
- If vendors will be absent, are running late or need assistance, contact the Market Manager by phone. Contact will be provided before the opening of the market season. If vendors are unable to attend one of their scheduled market dates, then vendors are required to contact the Market Manager by 5 p.m. Tuesday prior to the Farmers Market. If Market absences are beyond emergency-related, the Market Manager will discuss it with the vendor. Emergency-related absences will be handled by the Market Manager on a case-by-case basis.
- The Farmers Market operates regular season hours as indicated, though the Farmers Market may operate additional Holiday/Winter Markets.
- Vendors are **required** to stay until Market closes, except for cases of emergencies.
- Vendors may not sell any items until the market is open at 3 p.m. Vendors are required to stop selling at the close of the Farmers Market and must leave their spaces clean and remove their display and vehicle within one hour of the close of the Market.

- Vendors are prohibited from subleasing their market spaces.

## VENDOR SPACE, SIGNAGE & DISPLAYS

### *Vendor Space*

- The Market Manager must approve all signs and display items. In case of severe weather, adequate anchors/weights must be in place on all tents, canopies, or umbrellas. Tent, canopy, or pop-up legs shall each be anchored with a minimum of 24 pounds anchors for each leg. Umbrellas, signs, or other pylon type displays shall be anchored by a minimum of 50 pounds. It is the vendor's responsibility to ensure their signs, display items, tents, canopies, and umbrellas are secured appropriately. The Town of Christiansburg will not provide anchors or weights to vendors or assume liability if a person or property is damaged because of these items not being properly secured.
- Use of vehicles at the Market must be approved by the Market Manager based on the needs of the vendor.
- Vendors must keep their display of goods strictly within the confines of spaces assigned by the Market Manager. Vendors may not block the entrances to sidewalks or Market entry points. Vendors must maintain a minimum four-foot clear access to all displays.
- At no time shall the safety or convenience of customers or vendors be compromised by any vendors' displays.

### *Vendor Signage*

- Vendors shall clearly post their farm or business name and location at their Market space.
- Vendors shall clearly display prices of all items including whether the items are sold by the piece or pound.
- Vendors shall post the original farm name and address for any items not produced entirely on the vendor's farm.
- Posting of current licenses, certifications and inspections is highly recommended, but at minimum, vendors shall have copies available at the Farmers Market site.

## VENDOR RESPONSIBILITIES

### *Attendance*

Vendors must commit to the entire Market season (listed under Hours of Operation above) and participate on a regular basis. Produce availability may limit the beginning and ending dates; therefore, a schedule will be developed prior to the start of the Market season to document the vendor commitment to the Market. Guest vendors will be invited to participate in individual Markets based on the discretion of the Market Manager. Seasonal vendors will be accepted at the approval of the Market Manager. Holiday and Winter Markets (Fourth of July and Christmas at the Market) are additional events to the regular Farmers Market season and are not required attendance, and vendors interested in participating in special market events must schedule their participation with the Market Manager. **It is vital that the information we publish regarding vendors attending the Farmers Market is accurate.** The Market Manager will contact you via email every Monday to confirm your attendance for that week. We ask all vendors that cannot attend their scheduled market date to notify the Market Manager by 5pm Tuesday prior to the Market you are scheduled to attend. Emergency-related absences will be handled by the Market Manager on a case-by-case basis.

### *Cleanup Requirements*

Vendors are responsible for disposal of all trash and debris generated by their respective businesses. On-site disposal is not permitted and disposal in Town street trash receptacles is not permitted.

### *Token Program*

Every vendor that participates in the Christiansburg Farmers Market must participate in the token program. The token program revolves around creating Market currency in the form of tokens. Tokens represent cash, credit cards and SNAP benefits. Vendors may also accept cash, credit cards, and checks. Tokens are redeemed to the Market Manager for check. Once a minimum of \$30 of tokens is submitted to the Market Manager, vendors will receive a check issued by the Town of Christiansburg at the next week's Market.

### *Health Codes, Scales & Additional Regulations*

Vendors are responsible for all appropriate labeling, licenses, product inspections, weights, measures, and pesticide rules, regulations, and laws (local, state, and federal). Accuracy of scales/weights is the responsibility of the vendor. At all times, items sold in the Market must meet requirements of all applicable health and sanitation codes, as well as local, state, and federal agricultural requirements. It is the sole responsibility of the vendor to ensure compliance. The vendor must cooperate with state inspections at the Market. Anyone selling foods at the market processed in their home, must follow Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services guidelines. Product containers must have a label displaying the name, physical address, and telephone number of the person preparing the food product and the date the food product was processed. The statement "NOT FOR RESALE – PROCESSED AND PREPARED WITHOUT STATE INSPECTION" must be placed on the front of the product. In addition, standard labeling information on the product label is required (name of product, net weight statement, name and address of the manufacturer, list of ingredients and sub-ingredients and possibly nutritional information). Please see <https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pdf/kitchenbillfaq.pdf> for more information.

### *Accident/Injury*

Any accident or injury must be immediately reported to the Market Manager, 911, and/or the Christiansburg Police Department. Anyone who participates in the Market, whether vendor, customer or otherwise, attends at his or her own risk. Vendors will operate at their own risk and assume liability from the customers.

### *Prohibited Activities*

- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages is not allowed, except for approved wineries, who must abide by the rules of their ABC off-site permit. Breweries/beer vendors must be approved by the Market Manager in coordination with the Christiansburg Parks and Recreation Department's Special Events Policy and must abide by the rules of their ABC off-site permit.
- Music or other broadcasts from radios, stereos, etc. by vendors is prohibited. The Market will provide either live or streaming music at each Market.
- Smoking or vaping, dipping, or chewing tobacco and use of snuff is prohibited. Hawking is prohibited.
- Vendors cannot furnish live animals, unless granted prior written permission by the Market Manager. Vendors may not bring pets to the Market. Live animals may be used in Town-sponsored events at the Market.
- All illegal activities are prohibited.
- No political party or political-affiliated vendors are permitted per Town of Christiansburg policy.

### *Violations*

Failure of vendors to abide by these regulations may result in the suspension or prohibition of offending vendor's participation in the Farmers Market. Violations of these regulations by shoppers may result in temporary or permanent prohibition of the shopper in the designated Farmers Market area.

### *Grievances*

In the event of a dispute regarding any aspect of the Market, the Market Manager shall make an appropriate decision. Any failure to abide by the Market Manager's decision may be sufficient grounds for excluding the vendor from the Market. A vendor may file an appeal from the Market Manager's decision, in writing, to the Town Manager. Any appeal must be filed within ten (10) days of a decision. Upon receipt of an appeal, the matter will be reviewed expeditiously. The Town Manager will take no more than forty-five (45) days from receipt of the appeal to make a decision. During this time, the vendor must adhere to the original decision of the Market Manager with no right to restitution for any losses.

### *Suggestions/Comments*

Vendors with suggestions or comments are encouraged to submit written, signed statements to the Market Manager or vendor representative.

### *Contact*

Christiansburg Parks and Recreation Department's Austin Gilmore is the Market Manager. He can be contacted at [agilmore@christiansburg.org](mailto:agilmore@christiansburg.org) or (540) 382-2349 extension 2017.

## Christiansburg Farmers Market Inclement Weather Plan

- The below criteria should be met for the Farmer's Market to be moved inside the Rec Center:
  - Rain chance is forecasted for greater than 70% during the majority (51% or more) time of the market.
  - Rain amount is forecasted for greater than half an inch during the time of the market.

\*If the above criteria are met, it **does not** mean the Farmers' Market will be cancelled. It starts the process of Parks and Recreation staff meeting to discuss whether the market can take place outside.

- The decision to relocate the Farmers' Market due to weather will be made by the Event Coordinator and two other people. Depending on availability, the Assistant Event Coordinator, Assistant Parks and Rec Director, or the Parks and Rec Director will be the second and third decision makers.
- The decision to move the market by 1pm and vendors will be notified accordingly. This is a general rule and will allow for discretion to be used when necessary.
- When the market is moved to the gym, it will be done before the start of the market. To reduce confusion and for the safety of our staff, vendors, and citizens, we will not move indoors during the midst of the market, barring any unforeseen circumstances.
- The Town of Christiansburg's Severe Weather and Lightning Policy will always be adhered to.

If the Market is moved inside:

- Communication
  - Vendors will be notified immediately by text message.
  - Appropriate signage communicating the change will be displayed in the Rec Center.
  - Changes will be communicated to the PR office, the front desk and office staff as soon as the decision has been made. Facebook post and update to the Town's website will be made at the same time.
- Logistics
  - The gym will be blocked off at 1:30pm to allow for vendor set-up.
  - Court C will be used for vendor set-up. Door 4 or the loading ramp will be used by vendors to bring their items into the gym.
  - A staff member or intern will sit at door 3 to allow customers to come into the Farmer's Market.
  - We will do our best to accommodate food trucks outside of door 3.
  - We will not provide tables or chairs to vendors.



## Severe Weather and Lightning Policy

Due to the significant risks and possibility of fatal injury from lightning and severe weather, it is imperative that the Town of Christiansburg adopt a clear policy on how to deal with inclement weather and its effect on activities held within Town parks, facilities and on other public properties and rights-of-way (sidewalks, streets, etc.). This policy will help to clearly state the Town's position on this issue and help to define roles of certain individuals during the decision-making process. The chief concern of the Town, event organizer, or renter of outdoor facilities must be the safety of all participants, attendees, staff, and spectators of the activity.

The following plan will be in effect for all Town of Christiansburg sanctioned or sponsored events/activities as well as any person or organization renting any Town property. For purposes of this policy, a Town-sponsored event is defined as an event where all direction and organization of the occasion is overseen by Town officials or administrators. A Town-sanctioned event is defined as an organization hosting a Town-approved activity, whereby an event organizer oversees direction and organization. The Town of Christiansburg provides support and resources for the activity when applicable. Lastly, a rental is described as the occupation of Town property, whereby a renter is utilizing Town property or facilities, which include athletic fields or picnic shelters.

In the event of threatening or inclement weather before or during a Town-sponsored event, a designated Town official or other designee will inform the attendees and participants of impending severe weather through on-site coordination and/or through the Town's electronic messaging system. For any Town-sanctioned events, an appointed representative of the presiding organization is responsible for communicating any severe weather information to attendees. In cases of a facility rental, it is the renter's responsibility to notify attendees and/or spectators of any impending weather-related updates.

### GENERAL POLICY SPECIAL EVENTS

For a sanctioned or sponsored event, a Town of Christiansburg official or designee may monitor the weather and make the decision to notify the event organizer of dangerous situations and may enforce the suspension or cancellation of the activity in the event of severe weather. The decision to cancel, suspend or continue an event include but are not limited to:

- Any reported lightning strike on the mobile DTN Weather Sentry Lightning/Storm Detector app within the eight-mile caution range regardless of the presence of visible lightning. The decision to cancel, suspend or continue the event during this occurrence will be at the discretion and authority of any two presiding members of the Severe Weather Committee. The committee will confer and decide to continue or discontinue the event based upon the information provided by the DTN weather system.
- Utilization of the Flash-to-Bang Method (Count the seconds from the time the lightning is sighted to when the clap of thunder is heard. Divide this number by five to obtain how far away, in miles, the lightning is occurring.) If it reveals lightning to be within the 8-mile caution range, (a 40-second count between the flash of lightning and the bang of thunder) the decision to cancel, suspend or continue the event during this occurrence will be at the discretion of any two presiding members of the Severe Weather Committee.
- Any lightning that is recorded on the mobile weather sentry DTN app within the six-mile warning range of a designated Town of Christiansburg mobile user's location will warrant a mandatory shut down of the event
- It shall be the policy that if lightning strikes within a six-mile radius of the site, a mandatory suspension of the event will be in effect until 30 minutes have passed without any additional lightning or weather warnings
- Utilization of the Flash-to-Bang Method (Count the seconds from the time lightning is sighted to when the clap of thunder is heard. Divide this number by five to obtain how far away, in miles, the lightning is occurring). If it reveals lightning to be within the 6-mile warning range, (a 30-second count between the flash of lightning and the bang of thunder) the event will shut down and everyone should seek shelter immediately.



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## **GENERAL POLICY ATHLETIC EVENTS AND FACILITY RENTALS**

For sanctioned athletic events, activities, and facility rentals a Town of Christiansburg official or designee may monitor the weather and make the decision to notify the organization, club or renter of dangerous situations and may enforce the suspension or cancelation of activity in the event of severe weather. The decision to cancel, suspend or postpone an event include but are not limited to:

- Any reported lightning strike on the stationery DTN Weather Sentry Lightning/Storm Detector (100 East Main St. Christiansburg, VA 24073) within the eight-mile range regardless of the presence of visible lightning. If this is to occur, the athletic event, activity or facility rental will be shut down immediately and will not continue until the all clear has been issued by the DTN Weather system
- Utilization of the Flash-to-Bang Method (Count the seconds from the time the lightning is sighted to when the clap of thunder is heard. Divide this number by five to obtain how far away, in miles, the lightning is occurring.) If it reveals lightning to be within 8 miles (a 40 second count between the flash of lightning and the bang of thunder) activity is to be suspended and everyone should seek shelter immediately.

## **SEVERE WEATHER COMMITTEE**

For any Town sponsored or sanctioned event or activity, a severe weather committee is organized that includes the Town's Emergency Coordinator, Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Director of Parks and Recreation, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, Highest Ranking Law Enforcement Officer working the event and the Event Manager. For any given event, any two presiding members of the committee have the authority to cancel, shut down or continue the event in question due to severe weather in the area before or during the event or activity. The Committee will monitor the weather through the use of the mobile DTN Weather Sentry Lightning and Storm Detector (if equipped) or by the Flash-to Bang Method.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF CAUTION, SUSPENSION OR CANCELANATION OF ACTIVITY**

Once it is determined that there is a danger of inclement weather, a Town official or designee has the authority to cancel any Town-sanctioned event, activity, or rental facility at any point up to and during the event, and immediately request the removal of all vendors, attendees, and organizers. In the case of Town-sanctioned activities, it shall be the responsibility of a designated representative of the presiding organization, group, or renter to notify and enforce all vendors, attendees, or spectators to immediately evacuate the area.

## **EVACUATION OF THE AREA**

When communication is made about severe weather and lightning in the warning area, all attendees, spectators, and participants are encouraged to seek shelter immediately. All parties will be urged to evacuate to a safe location until conditions improve unless otherwise notified by an appropriate Town official or designee. Prior to the activity, event or rental, an evacuation plan may be required by the Town depending on the nature of the activity, which will be at the discretion of the Town's Emergency Coordinator.

## **RETURN TO THE AREA**

An event can resume 30 minutes following the last lightning strike recorded within the warning area. The last lightning strike will be determined by either the detection system or visual confirmation with flash bang method in place. The 30-minute time frame will immediately start over with each additional lightning strike within the warning range.

## Severe Weather Definitions by Type of Weather Condition

### **Hazardous Weather Outlook**

The Hazardous Weather Outlook will describe potential hazardous weather and hydrologic information of concern in Days 1 through 7.

The outlook contains two segments: One segment for the marine zones and adjacent land-based (i.e., coastal) zones and the other segment for the rest of the land-based zones. Each segment of the HWO will contain 3 sections: short term through Day 1, long term for Days 2-7, and spotter information.

### **Winter Storm Watch**

A Winter Storm Watch is issued when there is the potential for significant and hazardous winter weather within 48 hours. It does not mean that significant and hazardous winter weather will occur...it only means it is *possible*.

Significant and hazardous winter weather is defined as a combination of:

1) 5 inches or more of snow/sleet within a 12-hour period **or** 7 inches or more of snow/sleet within a 24-hour period

AND/OR

2) Enough ice accumulation to cause damage to trees or power lines.

AND/OR

3) a life threatening or damaging combination of snow and/or ice accumulation with wind.

The snow/sleet criteria for a Winter Storm Watch for the five westernmost counties (Allegany, Mineral, Grant, Pendleton, and Highland) is higher (6 inches or more within a 12-hour period; 8 inches or more within a 24-hour period).

### **Blizzard Warning**

A Blizzard Warning means that the following conditions are occurring or expected within the next 12 to 18 hours.

1) Snow and/or blowing snow reducing visibility to 1/4 mile or less for 3 hours or longer

AND

2) Sustained winds of 35 mph or greater or frequent gusts to 35 mph or greater.

There is no temperature requirement that must be met to achieve blizzard conditions.

### **Winter Storm Warning**

A Winter Storm Warning is issued when a significant combination of hazardous winter weather is occurring or imminent.

Significant and hazardous winter weather is defined as a combination of:

1) 5 inches or more of snow/sleet within a 12-hour period **or** 7 inches or more of snow/sleet within a 24-hour period

AND/OR

2) Enough ice accumulation to cause damage to trees or power lines.

AND/OR

3) a life threatening or damaging combination of snow and/or ice accumulation with wind.

The snow/sleet criteria for a Winter Storm Warning for the five westernmost counties (Allegany, Mineral, Grant, Pendleton, and Highland) is higher (6 inches or more within a 12-hour period; 8 inches or more within a 24-hour period).

### **Ice Storm Warning**

¼ inch or more of ice accumulation.

### **Winter Weather Advisory**

A Winter Weather Advisory will be issued for any amount of freezing rain, or when 2 to 4 inches of snow (alone or in combination with sleet and freezing rain), is expected to cause a significant inconvenience, but not serious enough to warrant a warning.

If the event is expected to impact the Baltimore/Washington metro areas during rush hours (4-9 am or 2-7 pm on weekdays) forecasted snow totals of one inch will necessitate the issuance of a winter weather advisory. The snow/sleet criteria for a Winter Weather Advisory for the five westernmost counties (Allegany, Mineral, Grant, Pendleton, and Highland) is higher (3-5 inches).



### **Freeze Watch**

A Freeze Watch is issued when there is a potential for significant, widespread freezing temperatures within the next 24-36 hours.

A Freeze Watch is issued in the autumn until the end of the growing season (marked by the occurrence of first widespread freeze). The normal end of the growing season is mid to late October west of the Blue Ridge and early November east of the Blue Ridge. However, during anomalously warm autumns, the growing season may be extended past the normal end of the growing season.

A Freeze Watch is issued in the spring at the start of the growing season (when it is late enough to cause damage to new plants and crops).

### **Freeze Warning**

A Freeze Warning is issued when significant, widespread freezing temperatures are expected.

A Freeze Warning is issued in the autumn until the end of the growing season (marked by the occurrence of first widespread freeze). The normal end of the growing season is mid to late October west of the Blue Ridge and early November east of the Blue Ridge. However, during anomalously warm autumns, the growing season may be extended past the normal end of the growing season.

A Freeze Warning is issued in the spring at the start of the growing season (when it is late enough to cause damage to new plants and crops).

### **Frost Advisory**

A Frost Advisory is issued when the minimum temperature is forecast to be 33 to 36 degrees on clear and calm nights during the growing season.

A Frost Advisory is issued in the autumn until the end of the growing season (marked by the occurrence of first widespread freeze). The normal end of the growing season is mid to late October west of the Blue Ridge and early November east of the Blue Ridge. However, during anomalously warm autumns, the growing season may be extended past the normal end of the growing season.

A Frost Advisory is issued in the spring at the start of the growing season (when it is late enough to cause damage to new plants and crops).

### **Wind Chill Advisory**

A Wind Chill Advisory is issued when wind chills of -5F to -19F are expected east of the Blue Ridge Mountains, and when wind chills of -10 to -24F are expected along and west of the Blue Ridge Mountains and in Frederick and Carroll Counties in Maryland.

### **Wind Chill Warning**

A Wind Chill Warning is issued when wind chills of -20F or lower are expected east of the Blue Ridge Mountains, and when wind chills of -25F or lower are expected along and west of the Blue Ridge Mountains and in Frederick and Carroll Counties in Maryland.

### **Dense Fog Advisory**

A Dense Fog Advisory is issued when widespread fog is expected to reduce visibilities to 1/4 mile or less over a large area for an extended period of time (2 or more hours).

### **High Wind Watch**

A High Wind Watch is issued when the following conditions are *possible*:

1) sustained winds of 40 mph or higher for one hour or more

OR

2) wind gusts of 58 mph or higher for any duration.

### **High Wind Warning**

A High Wind Warning is issued when the following conditions are expected:

1) sustained winds of 40 mph or higher for one hour or more

OR

2) wind gusts of 58 mph or higher for any duration.

### **Hurricane Watch**

A Hurricane Watch is issued when a tropical cyclone containing winds of 64 kt (74 mph) or higher poses a possible threat, generally within 48 hours. These winds may be accompanied by storm surge, coastal flooding, and/or river flooding.

The watch does not mean that hurricane conditions will occur. It only means that these conditions are *possible*.

### **Hurricane Warning**

A Hurricane Warning is issued when sustained winds of 64 kt (74 mph) or higher associated with a tropical cyclone are expected in 36 hours or less. These winds may be accompanied by storm surge, coastal flooding, and/or river flooding. A hurricane warning can remain in effect when dangerously high water or a combination of dangerously high water and exceptionally high waves continue, even though winds may be less than hurricane force.

### **Wind Advisory**

A Wind Advisory is issued when the following conditions are expected:

1) sustained winds of 31 to 39 mph for an hour or more.

AND/OR

2) wind gusts of 46 to 57 mph for any duration.

### **Extreme Wind Warning**

An Extreme Wind Warning is issued for surface winds of 100 knots (115 MPH) or greater associated with non-convective, downslope, derecho (NOT associated with a tornado), or sustained hurricane winds are expected to occur within one hour.

### **Small Craft Advisory**

Small Craft Advisories are issued for the Tidal Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay when one or both of the following conditions is expected to begin within 36 hours:

1) sustained winds of 18 knots to 33 knots

OR

2) frequent gusts (duration of two or more hours) between 18 knots and 33 knots.

OR

3) waves of 4 feet or higher

### **Gale Warning**

Gale Warnings are issued for the Tidal Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay when one or both of the following conditions is expected to begin within 36 hours and not directly associated with a tropical cyclone:

1) sustained winds of 34 knots to 47 knots

OR

2) frequent gusts (duration of two or more hours) between 34 knots and 47 knots.

### **Storm Warning**

Storm Warnings are issued for the Tidal Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay when one or both of the following conditions is expected to begin within 36 hours and not directly associated with a tropical cyclone:

1) sustained winds of 48 knots to 63 knots

OR

2) frequent gusts (duration of two or more hours) of 48 knots to 63 knots

#### **Hurricane Force Wind Warning**

Hurricane Force Wind Warnings are issued for the Tidal Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay when one or both of the following conditions is expected to begin within 36 hours and not directly associated with a tropical cyclone:

1) sustained winds of 64 knots or greater

OR

2) frequent gusts (duration of two or more hours) of 64 knots or greater

#### **Special Marine Warning**

A warning of potentially hazardous weather conditions of short duration (up to 2 hours) affecting areas included in a CWF that are not adequately covered by existing marine warnings and producing one or more of the following:

1) Sustained marine convective winds (showers/thunderstorms) or associated gusts of 34 knots or greater

AND/OR

2) Hail three quarters of an inch or more in diameter

AND/OR

3) Waterspouts

#### **Severe Thunderstorm Watch**

A Severe Thunderstorm Watch is issued when severe thunderstorms are *possible* in and near the watch area. It does not mean that they will occur. It only means they are *possible*.

Severe thunderstorms are defined as follows:

1) Winds of 58 mph or higher

AND/OR

2) Hail 1 inch in diameter or larger.

#### **Severe Thunderstorm Warning**

A Severe Thunderstorm Warning is issued when severe thunderstorms are occurring or imminent in the warning area.

Severe thunderstorms are defined as follows:

1) Winds of 58 mph or higher

AND/OR

2) Hail 1 inch in diameter or larger.

#### **Tornado Watch**

A Tornado Watch is issued when severe thunderstorms and tornadoes are *possible* in and near the watch area. It does not mean that they will occur. It only means they are *possible*.

Severe thunderstorms are defined as follows:

1) Winds of 58 mph or higher

AND/OR

2) Hail 1 inch in diameter or larger.

#### **Tornado Warning**

A Tornado Warning is issued when a tornado is imminent. When a tornado warning is issued, seek safe shelter immediately.

#### **Tropical Storm Watch**

A Tropical Storm Watch is issued when a tropical cyclone containing winds of 34 to 63 kt (39 to 73 mph) or higher poses a possible threat, generally within 48 hours. These winds may be accompanied by storm surge, coastal flooding, and/or river flooding.

The watch does not mean that tropical storm conditions will occur. It only means that these conditions are *possible*.

#### **Tropical Storm Warning**

A Tropical Storm Warning is issued when sustained winds of 34 to 63 kt (39 to 73 mph) or higher associated with a tropical cyclone are expected in 36 hours or less. These winds may be accompanied by storm surge, coastal flooding, and/or river flooding.

#### **Coastal Flood Watch**

A Coastal Flood Watch is issued when moderate to major coastal flooding is possible. Such flooding would potentially pose a serious risk to life and property.

Coastal Flood Watches are issued for coastal areas along the Tidal Potomac River and coastal areas along the Chesapeake Bay.

#### **Coastal Flood Warning**

A Coastal Flood Warning is issued when moderate to major coastal flooding is occurring or imminent. This flooding will pose a serious risk to life and property.

Coastal Flood Warnings are issued for coastal areas along the Tidal Potomac River and areas along the Chesapeake Bay.

#### **Coastal Flood Advisory**

A Coastal Flood Advisory is issued when minor or nuisance coastal flooding is occurring or imminent.

Coastal Flood Advisories are issued for coastal areas along the Tidal Potomac River and areas along the Chesapeake Bay.

#### **Flash Flood Watch**

A Flash Flood Watch is issued when conditions are favorable for flash flooding. It does not mean that flash flooding will occur, but it is *possible*.

#### **Flash Flood Warning**

A Flash Flood Warning is issued when flash flooding is imminent or occurring.

#### **Flood Watch**

A Flood Watch is issued when conditions are favorable for flooding. It does not mean flooding will occur, but it is *possible*.

#### **Flood Warning**

A Flood Warning is issued when flooding is imminent or occurring.

#### **River Flood Watch**

A River Flood Watch is issued when river flooding is possible at one or more forecast points along a river.

#### **River Flood Warning**

A River Flood Warning is issued when river flooding is occurring or imminent at one or more forecast points along a river.

#### **Excessive Heat Watch**

An Excessive Heat Watch is issued when there is a potential for the heat index value to reach or exceed 110 degrees (east of the Blue Ridge) or 105 degrees (west of the Blue Ridge) within the next 24 to 48 hours.

#### **Excessive Heat Warning**

An Excessive Heat Warning is issued when the heat index value is expected to reach or exceed 110 degrees (east of the Blue Ridge) or 105 degrees (west of the Blue Ridge) within the next 12 to 24 hours.

An Excessive Heat Warning may be issued for lower criteria if it is early in the season or during a multi-day heat wave.

#### **Heat Advisory**

A Heat Advisory is issued when the heat index value is expected to reach 105 to 109 degrees (east of the Blue Ridge) or 100 to 104 degrees (west of the Blue Ridge) within the next 12 to 24 hours. A Heat Advisory may be issued for lower criteria if it is early in the season or during a multi-day heat wave.

#### **Fire Weather Watch**

A Fire Weather Watch is issued to alert fire officials and firefighters of potentially dangerous fire weather conditions within the next 24 to 36 hours. They are issued when the following three criteria are met:

- 1) Surface relative humidity (RH) less than 30 % for VA and MD; RH less than or equal to 25% for WV AND
- 2) Sustained surface wind of 20 MPH or greater AND
- 3) 10-hour fuel moisture less than 8% for VA; less than or equal to 8% for MD and WV

#### **Red Flag Warning**

A Red Flag Warning is issued to alert fire officials and firefighters of potentially dangerous fire weather conditions within the next 12 to 24 hours. They are issued when the following three criteria are met:

- 1) Surface relative humidity (RH) less than 30 % for VA and MD; RH less than or equal to 25% for WV AND
- 2) Sustained surface wind of 20 MPH or greater AND
- 3) 10-hour fuel moisture less than 8% for VA; less than or equal to 8% for MD and WV