

Oklahoma Department of Corrections Rules for Outdoor Religious Activities

Use of fire during Outdoor Religious Activities

Due to restrictions on movement, the close proximity of outdoor religious areas to housing areas and the need to avoid life-threatening conditions, the following safety precautions will be taken:

- No outdoor fire larger than a single flame (such as a lighter or match) will be used when the National Weather Service has issued a Red Flag Warning, a High Wind Warning, or a High Wind Advisory.

Restrictions on Outdoor Religious Activities during severe weather

- Outdoor religious activities will be suspended when the National Weather Service has issued a Severe Thunderstorm Warning, Winter Storm Warning, or a Tornado Warning.
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- Sweat Lodge ceremonies will be suspended when the National Weather Service has issued an Excessive Heat Warning. Inmates participating in other outdoor religious activities during an Excessive Heat Warning will be required to sign a medical liability release.

Alternative Activities

- When weather or fire dangers require outdoor religious activities to be suspended or postponed the facility will make every effort to allow alternative activities, such as drum circles, smudge ceremonies, or indoor meetings.

National Weather Service alert information will be obtained by the facility from www.weather.gov. When a weather alert requires the facility to restrict an outdoor religious activity the facility chaplain will document the alert, the restriction, and any alternative activities. The facility chaplain will forward the documentation to the agency chaplain. The agency chaplain will provide the documentation to the General Counsel.

Oklahoma Department of Corrections Outdoor Religious Activity Medical Liability Release Form

Inmates who desire to participate in an outdoor religious activity (other than Native American Sweat Lodge ceremony) even though the National Weather Service (www.weather.gov) has issued an "Excessive Heat Warning," will be required to sign a *medical release form* (OP-030112, attachment H).

An Excessive Heat Warning means that a period of hot temperatures is expected. The combination of hot temperatures and high humidity will combine to create a situation in which heat illnesses are possible. Drink plenty of fluids, and take extra precautions while you work or spend time outside.

Anyone overcome by heat should move to a cool and shaded location. Heat stroke is an emergency and one should seek immediate medical attention.

Participation in the Outdoor Ceremony is a privilege that should be taken seriously. Because of this, I understand that:

- Participation is totally voluntary. I will do so at my own risk and will release the facility, agency, and staff of any medical liability. If I find that I am experiencing physical difficulties due to my participation in the Outdoor Ceremony, I will notify staff immediately and seek medical assistance.
- Outdoor ceremonies may be suspended at any time for any reason (i.e. burn bans, special counts, etc.). The Chaplain's office will work with the religious community to communicate interruptions in any Outdoor Ceremonies.

Inmate's printed name/ODOC#

Inmate's signature

Date

Facility

Housing Unit/Cell