

COURSE EVACUATION

The Host Club and the USGA should work together to devise an evacuation plan for the championship. There are two (2) parts to an evacuation plan: 1) players, caddies and officials and 2) fans.

PLAYER, CADDIES, OFFICIALS

The Host Club should develop an Evacuation Committee which is responsible for 1) devising a course evacuation plan (to be approved by USGA); 2) transporting players, caddies and officials to safety in the event of inclement weather; and 3) transporting players, caddies and officials back to the same location for resumption of play.

The number of volunteers needed depends on how many vans are required for the Host Club and the Stroke Play Co-Host. Turnaround time must be quick and efficient.

Requirements

- The Host Club should designate specific shelter sites which are safety enclosures with four sides and a roof. Structures such as homes, permanent buildings, office trailers and even vehicles or school buses are suitable. Players should have to walk no more than 500 yards from their course location to the designated site.
- Within a close proximity to the shelter sites, the Host Club should stage vehicles that can transport players, caddies, walking scorers, standard bearers and USGA Officials to the clubhouse in the event of a prolonged delay. Any vehicles will work but 12 passenger vans prove to be ideal for this purpose. For each 12 passenger van, the Host Club should count on having eight seats available for people within the group as golf clubs and other equipment take up more space.
- The shelter sites should be designated with a letter (Site A, Site B, etc.). The USGA and the Host Club will develop a plan so that groups know which site to seek shelter depending on their location on the golf course. Some groups may simply return to the clubhouse based on proximity.
- At any one time during stroke play, there can be 27 groups of players on the course. Each group of players represents approximately eight people that may need to be evacuated with a maximum of 216 people at peak times. During match play, the number of people that may need to be evacuated dramatically decreases. As we approach the quarterfinals, some vehicles may be removed from the golf course.
- During championship week, drivers should be assigned to each vehicle and be ready to activate the plan as necessary. These drivers should be trained in the evacuation process and the routes for the evacuation vehicles.

Evacuation vans should be labeled per their corresponding site by letter code. Please see the attached picture as an example.



Vans should be staged near access roads or cart paths to take advantage of all hard service roads.



Evacuation Map

The Host Club should develop an evacuation map for each course and it must be reviewed by USGA before it is printed. This map should indicate the location of the evacuation shelter sites and include a chart to show the groups where to proceed based on their location on the golf course. Once the plan is finalized and is illustrated on a course map, copies are made by the Host Club and placed in the Player Registration packets. The USGA will also copy the map onto the back of the hole location sheets to ensure that every player and rules official has a copy of the plan each day. A sample of an evacuation map is below.

2011 U.S. Amateur Championship
Erin Hills Evacuation Plan



HOLE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
TEE	CH	B	B	A	A	B	B	C	CH	CH	D	D	E	E	F	F	F	E
FAIRWAY	CH	B	A	A	A	-	C	C	-	CH	D	E	-	E	-	-	E	C
GREEN	B	B	A	A	B	B	C	C	CH	D	D	E	E	F	F	F	E	CH

- CH – Clubhouse
- A – Right of 3 Green, 4 Tee (Vehicles)
- B – Behind 6 Green (Vehicles)
- C – Right of 8 Fairway (Vehicles)
- D – Right of 11 Fairway (Vehicles)
- E – Behind 13 Tee (Vehicles)
- F – Behind 17 Tee (Vehicles)

Air Horns

The USGA will provide air horns for signaling the suspension and resumption of play. During practice rounds, the Host Club will designate individuals to carry air horns. During championship rounds, the rules officials will carry the air horns.

Decision for Suspension of Play

Any decision on suspending play and/or course evacuation will be made by the USGA with the assistance from the on-site Meteorologist. The USGA Meteorologist will be responsible for setting up and monitoring the weather computer and lightning detection device.

Radios

The USGA will provide a USGA issued radio to the Course Evacuation Chairman and the Golf Course Superintendents for communications, in case of weather or other emergencies.

FANS

It is the USGA's intent to notify fans and volunteers in advance, if possible, of approaching inclement weather.

Since providing shelter for thousands of fans over hundreds of acres is not practical, the USGA will use a system whereby "Weather Warning" signs (see below) will be hung at all status boards when inclement weather is detected within a potentially dangerous range. The intent behind this action is to notify fans and volunteers, when possible, of potentially dangerous weather before play is suspended, so time is given for fans to move in the direction of shelter. When "Weather Warning" signs go up, marshals are instructed to "spread the word" to fans on their hole that dangerous weather is in the area. The "Weather Warning" signs should not affect play on the golf course as players will utilize evacuation shelters when play is suspended or delayed. Marshals will notify fans to avoid other dangerous areas such as wire fences, hill tops and single trees. All volunteers are advised to use their best judgment about when to take cover. The USGA does not expect any volunteer to take undue risks.

