Avoidable Tragedies

Outdoor stages collapse in France and Canada. Lightning kills a young man at an outdoor event in Kansas. Meanwhile, an unfortunate press release boasts of continuing the competition at an outdoor venue in Colorado "... with lightning ashes all around . . ." So, it seems appropriate to revisit weather safety for outdoor events. For illustration, let’s focus on one of these recent incidents.

The Camrose, Alberta stage collapse occurred at the Big Blue Valley Jamboree August 1 with one person killed and 75 injured. According to multiple news reports, the stage collapsed just 16 minutes after organizers received a call that strong thunderstorms were on the way, leaving insufficient time to react.

AccuWeather had been tracking that same storm for our client, Navistar, in nearby Edmonton. We provided 32 minutes advance warning to Navistar of 100km/hour (60 mph) wind gusts and cloud to ground lightning. We would have provided at least as much warning for the Camrose area.

These unfortunate events illustrate, once again, the vital nature of advance planning for emergency weather conditions whenever large numbers of people gather, whether indoors or out. By having a practiced plan, lives can be saved and injuries prevented. An essential element of the plan is having a dedicated weather partner specically focusing on your venue.

The technology and scientific expertise is available to minimize these tragedies. Call us today. We’ll work with you to ensure successful, and weather-safe, events.

Here are some resources to help you plan for future storms:

http://maildogmanager.com/page.html?p=000001XDDtjL188sAclwIkZvZ44Awkv1fM1iJBU+3

Lightning Safety and Outdoor Stadiums, Gratz, Church and Noble, 2004,