

Caring for your children, in every situation.

A summary of the changes we've made to our Emergency Action & Risk Management Plan in response to the Heaven's 27 safety standards.

WHY WE DID THIS

The tragic loss of life in a flash flood at a summer camp last year prompted Texas to pass the most significant camp safety law in its history.

Florida is not Texas, and our situation is different, but that legislation did raise the bar for camp safety in some important ways. *We chose to adapt those standards to our context so every family feels confident their children are safe in our care.*

At Cedarkirk, the safety of our campers is a commitment we make to your family each time you trust your child to us – not a checklist to be completed. We have reviewed our entire Emergency Action & Risk Management Plan against the strongest standards now in place, and strengthened it in areas where it did not already meet or exceed them.

Here is what changed.



PILLAR ONE

How we watch

We see weather coming sooner, and we trust the warning.

- New lightning and weather alerting systems
- Clear Watch vs. Warning language in every weather protocol
- Severe weather and emergency decision matrix takes subjectivity out of our response



PILLAR TWO

How we act

When the call comes, we move – with a plan made in advance.

- Lightning rules consistent among all activities and locations
- On-site shelters designated for each type of emergency
- New protocols for flash flood, aquatic emergency, and illness



PILLAR THREE

How we account

Every camper and every counselor is accounted for every time – by name.

- Roster Card carried by every counselor at all times.
- Accountability-by-name confirmed in every shelter location at every emergency
- Standing authority for any staff member to call for shelter protocol



PILLAR FOUR

How we prepare

Practice is what turns plans into success.

- Emergency Preparedness Coordinator designated for all programs
- Pre-season drills for all emergencies before campers arrive
- Age-appropriate camper safety orientation within 24 hours of arrival



PILLAR FIVE

How we communicate

You should never have to wonder what we're doing.

- Published Safety Practices & Site Hazards statement
- Direct parent notification protocol for any serious weather emergency
- Annual review of the Risk Management & Emergency Action Plan by ED and Board Members

WHAT HASN'T CHANGED

Cedarkirk remains what it has always been: **a place apart**. The careful hiring and training of staff remains unchanged, as does the presence of caring adults, the welcome we extend to campers of every background and every ability, and the conviction that your child is precious – that their stay with us should be safe, joyful, and grounded in this community of support and love. Our mission continues as it always has, with the safety work we've always done now rewritten, tested, and held to a higher standard. As always, we are grateful for the trust you place in us.

