OTAS LIVE

Supporting Events and Professionals at Every Stage

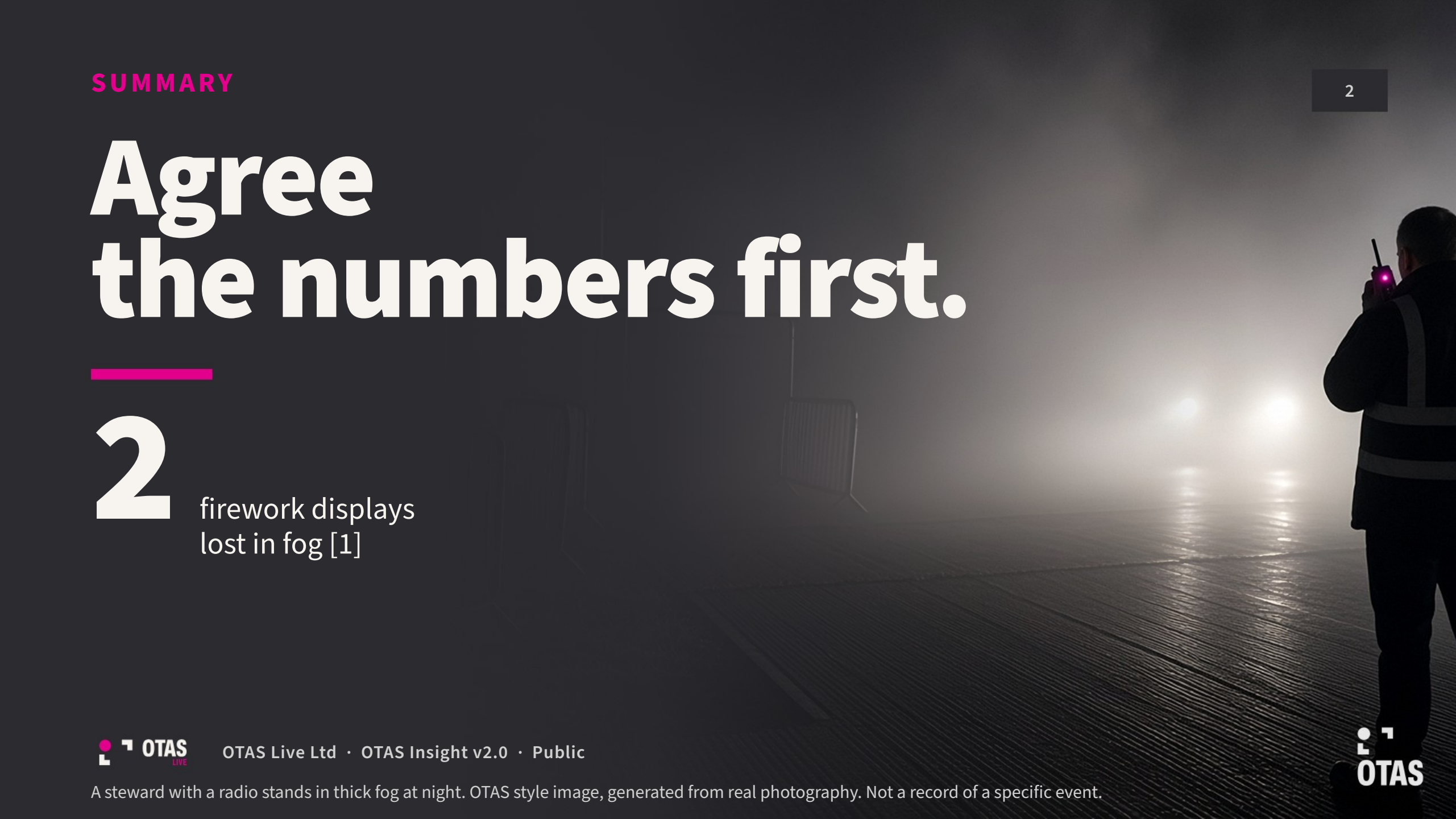
When the weather makes the call

Fog that hid two firework displays and a televised cup tie in Greater Manchester, a storm that cancelled light trails and Diwali events, and how to agree the numbers that delay, pause or stop your event before the weather decides for you

Correct as of 9 November 2026

Agree the numbers first.

2 firework displays lost in fog [1]



A steward with a radio stands in thick fog at night. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

OTAS

The facts, as reported

2

firework displays lost in fog [1]

100 m

visibility in the next night's fog [3]

80 mph

storm gusts possible on coasts [4]

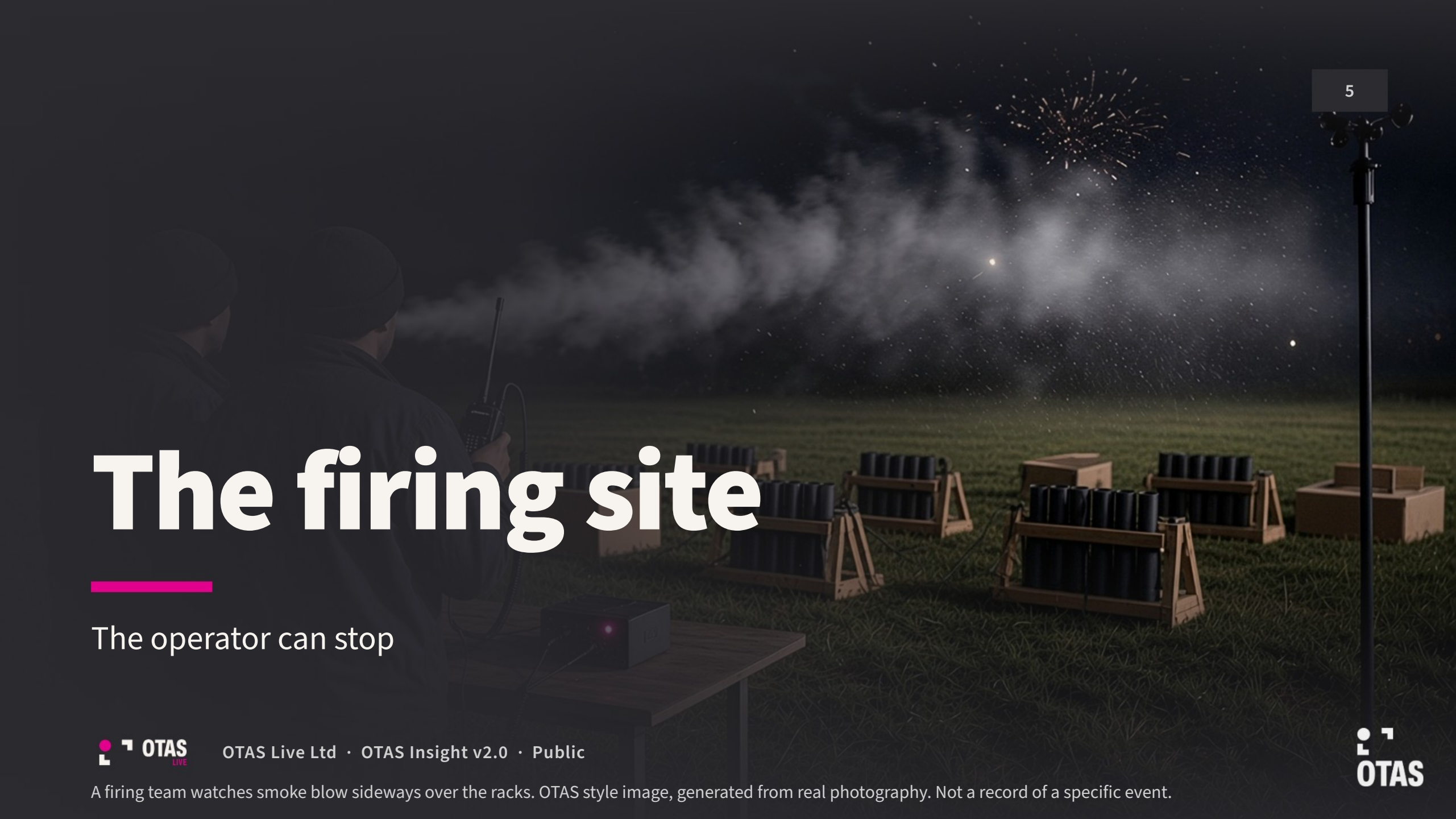
What was reported

FOG, 7 NOVEMBER

- Displays barely visible [1]
- Some spectators left [1]
- Cup tie played to penalties [2]

STORM, 24 OCTOBER

- Amber wind warning [4]
- Light trail cancelled [5]
- Diwali event called off [4]



The firing site

The operator can stop

A firing team watches smoke blow sideways over the racks. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

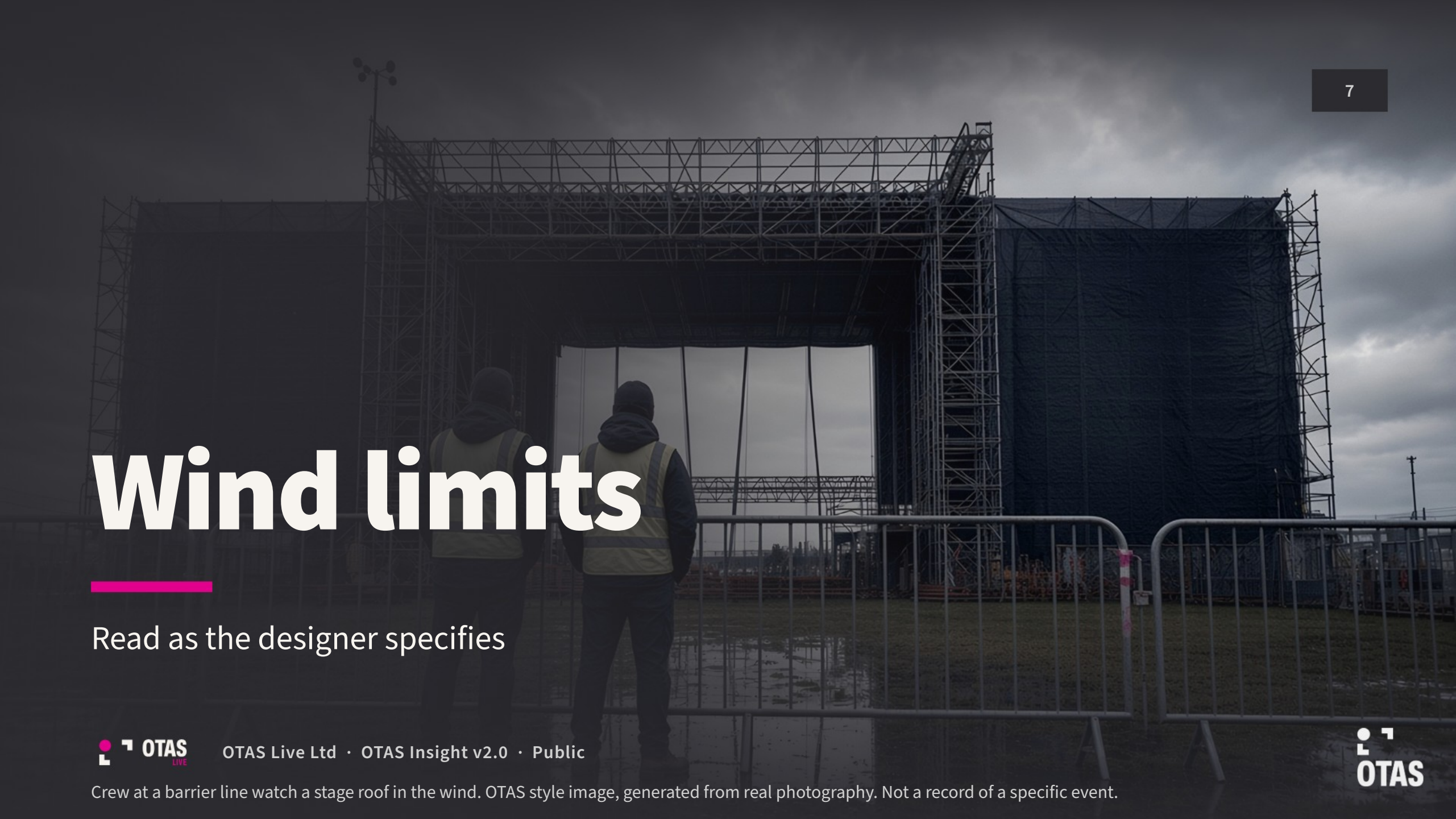
What the guidance says

WIND

- Measure as the designer or supplier specifies [15]
- Alert at 75 percent [14]
- Act at 90 percent [14]

FOG AND LIGHTNING

- Dense fog under 100 m [9]
- Thunder heard, in range [10]
- The 30/30 rule [11]



Wind limits

Read as the designer specifies

Crew at a barrier line watch a stage roof in the wind. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

03

In numbers

WIND

3 second gust at 10 m [14]
Knots times 1.15 is mph [22]
1.5 times height may be prudent [15]

FOG AND LIGHTNING

Fog under 1,000 m [9]
Dense under 100 m [9]
Lightning 10 miles [10]

04

Decide on the number, not the mood

1	2	3	4	5
Forecast watched	Trigger reached	One person calls it	Everyone is told	Logged and reviewed

OTAS guidance.



The words

Delay, pause, stop

A team is briefed in a loose circle in floodlit mist. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

05

Six things to agree

THE PLAN	THE CALL
The limits	The operator's stop
The triggers	The words
The owner	The message out

06

Signs your weather plan will not hold

OTAS guidance, drawn from HSE, Met Office and industry.

01 No numbers

02 Wind from a phone

03 No fog plan

04 Nobody owns the call

05 No words written

Five stages, from the limits to the night



STAGE 1

Limits

From the designer or supplier

STAGE 2

Triggers

Watch, act and stop

STAGE 3

Owner

One person calls it

STAGE 4

Words

Delay, pause, stop, restart

STAGE 5

The night

Measure, log, call

From the plan in this Insight. OTAS guidance.

08

Trigger chart

ACT	STOP
Wind at 75 percent [14]	Wind at 90 percent [14]
Fog hides the next post	Cannot see to keep safe
Thunder heard [10]	30 seconds or less [11]

09

Public address

DELAY OR PAUSE	STOP
Stay where you are	Event ending now
Update in ten minutes	Nearest exit, calmly

What to do at each level

Operational

Know the words

Report what you see

Follow the call

Tactical

Read and log

Report the trigger

Brief the words

Strategic

Set the triggers

Name the owner

Tell people early

11

The checklist

BEFORE THE DAY

- Limits collected
- Triggers agreed
- One owner named
- Words recorded

ON THE NIGHT

- Measure and log
- Call it on the number

“…do not continue if the operator advises cancelling or stopping the display.

Explosives Industry Group, Working Together on Firework Displays, printed page 36, on stopping or cancelling in adverse wind [20]

Where the facts come from

1	**Regional newspaper report on thick fog, flight diversions and firework displays in Greater Manchester, 8 November 2026** manchestereveningnews.co.uk
2	**BBC Sport report on an FA Cup tie played in thick fog, 8 November 2026** bbc.co.uk
3	**BBC Weather report on fog warnings across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, 8 November 2026** bbc.com
4	**National newspaper and PA report on a named storm, travel disruption and cancelled events, 24 October 2026** theguardian.com
5	**BBC News report on events and attractions closed by a named storm, 24 October 2026** bbc.co.uk
6	**Met Office, storm summary for two named storms, October 2026** metoffice.gov.uk
7	**Met Office, UK Storm Centre** weather.metoffice.gov.uk

Where the facts come from

8	**Met Office, weather warnings guide**	metoffice.gov.uk
9	**Met Office, fog**	metoffice.gov.uk
10	**Met Office, stay safe in thunder and lightning**	weather.metoffice.gov.uk
11	**RoSPA, lightning safety**	rospa.com
12	**The Purple Guide, weather chapter, January 2026 (subscription)**	thepurpleguide.co.uk
13	**Institution of Structural Engineers, Temporary demountable structures: Guidance on procurement, design and use, fourth edition, 2017**	istructe.org
14	**Published wind management plan for a temporary structure, filed with a planning application, 2022**	docs.planning.org.uk

Where the facts come from

15	**HSE, event safety, outdoor equipment**	hse.gov.uk
16	**HSE, event safety, incidents and emergencies**	hse.gov.uk
17	**HSE, event safety, venue and site design**	hse.gov.uk
18	**HSE, event safety, managing an event**	hse.gov.uk
19	**HSE, organising firework displays**	hse.gov.uk
20	**Explosives Industry Group, Working Together on Firework Displays, 2023**	eig2.org.uk
21	**UKHSA, Weather Health Alerting System**	gov.uk

Where the facts come from

22	**Met Office, Beaufort wind force scale**	metoffice.gov.uk
23	**Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, section 3**	legislation.gov.uk
24	**BBC News report on a national inspection of event safety oversight, 4 September 2026**	bbc.co.uk
25	**Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978, article 5**	legislation.gov.uk

Web sources opened 9 November 2026 and labelled by source type. Links are for checking only. Listing a source does not mean it endorses OTAS or has worked with OTAS.

OVER TO YOU

If fog came down over your event tonight, who would make the call, and on what number?

If you need support setting weather triggers and stop decisions for your event, reach out to us to see how we can support you.

OTAS Live Ltd.
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