

Electrical Storm Safety

Lightning strikes approximately 1,000 people annually in the United States, causing fatalities in about 1/3 of these cases. Most of these cases involve persons in outdoor, open areas during the period preceding, during, or after a lightning storm. Lightning storms move at speeds of 25 mph or more and *lightning can strike as much as 30 miles ahead of or following the main rain cell* of a lightning storm, striking from a clear blue sky. Because of this, visual means of lightning detection is inadequate. Further, persons must seek shelter in advance of the visual lightning or the main rain cell.

The following policy is in effect for all club activities conducted outdoors.

LIGHTENING POLICY for Sport Clubs

Recreation Services is informed of impending storms via Weather Sentry, a sophisticated campus-wide lightening detection system. When a warning is received, that means dangerous lightening is approaching and all outdoor activities must be ceased and fields cleared.

- On Frazer Field, during open building hours, CSB staff will inform players to clear the fields.
- On all other fields, and when CSB is not open (effecting Frazer Field), players will be informed by Public Safety.
- Players should seek safe shelter immediately (see below).

In the event you observe lightening but no one has appeared to clear the field, the club president should take the lead in enforcing this policy:

Chain of Command

The persons filling the roles listed below are responsible for making the decision to stop the activity, remove individuals from the playing field, and determining when/if it is safe to resume:

Practices: Club President, or next highest officer, or Coach

During competition: Officials (In absence of officials, default to club president.)

Detection

Be aware of how close lightning is to you by using the

****Flash to Bang Method:***

1. Count the seconds from the time the lightning is sighted to when the next clap of thunder is heard.
2. For every 5 seconds, the storm is 1 mile away.
3. At 6 miles away (30 seconds) or closer, CEASE ACTIVITY AND SEEK SHELTER OR PROTECTION IMMEDIATELY.

** This method is not completely fool proof; no method is. Thunder or approaching clouds are not the best indicators.*

- * Often the only warnings you will have are*
- your hair standing on end,
 - &/or skin tingling,
 - &/or and a smell of ozone in the air.

When this happens, lightening is imminent. CEASE ACTIVITY AND SEEK SHELTER OR PROTECTION IMMEDIATELY.

Safe Shelter/protection

- Safe shelter is defined as an enclosed building.
- If access to a building is not available, seek shelter in a car with the windows up, but do not touch the sides of the vehicle.
- Avoid being near large/tall trees or poles (choose a small tree in a wooded area, if possible).
- *Last Resort:* If no safe shelter is available, crouch on the ground with your arms wrapped around your knees and only the balls of your feet touching the ground. DO NOT LIE FLAT ON THE GROUND - minimize ground contact.

Resuming Play

Play may resume only after 30 minutes inactivity. If you hear thunder or observe lightening again within 30 minutes of the last occurrence, restart the 30-minute count.

Activity should not resume until 30 minutes after the last lightning flash or clap of thunder.