

COLLEGE STATION PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
SEVERE WEATHER BEST PRACTICE



The College Station Parks and Recreation Department (CSPARD) recognizes the importance of safe practices during outdoor activities as they relate to weather hazards. The following “Best Practice” recommendations have been adopted by the CSPARD as guidelines for decision making related to outdoor activities during hazardous weather conditions. The safety of park guests is of utmost importance to us.

All participants and guests of CSPARD facilities are advised to be aware of developing or approaching weather hazards before arriving at and during all outdoor activities. League officials, event managers and sports officials (referees and umpires) are responsible for monitoring all available resources concerning weather hazards and determining suspension or continuation of outdoor activities. Coaches and parents are responsible for monitoring weather developments during activities where no official, referee, or umpire is present, and for determining suspension or continuation of outdoor activities.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- Local Radar- Information can be obtained from websites containing local satellite information such as Weatherbug, Accuweather, Intellicast, or KBTX.
- KBTX-TV- KBTX frequently has a meteorologist on-duty and will go live with weather reports if conditions warrant. They also have live Doppler radar.
- Observation- All persons are advised to use sight and sound when monitoring possible weather hazards.
- NOAA is a national wide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office. Updated weather information is available through NOAA 24/7.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LIGHTNING SAFETY

Lightning's distance from you is easy to calculate: if you hear thunder, it and the associated lightning are within auditory range (estimated at 6-8 miles away). The distance from Strike A to Strike B also can be 6-8 miles. Weatherbug also maintains up to the date data on lightning strikes in the area.

A good lightning safety motto is: "If you can see it (lightning) flee it; if you can hear it (thunder), clear it."

- Establish a chain of command that identifies who is to make the call to remove individuals from the field.
- Name a designated weather watcher (actively look for signs of threatening weather and notify the chain of command if severe weather becomes dangerous).
- Have a means of monitoring local weather forecasts and warnings (suggestions above but this list is not exhaustive).

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- When thunder is heard within 30 seconds of a visible lightning strike, or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play for a minimum of thirty minutes and take shelter immediately.
- Avoid being the highest point in an open field, in contact with, or proximity to the highest point, as well as being on the open water. Do not take shelter under or near trees, flagpoles, or light poles.
- All individuals have the right to leave an athletic site in order to seek a safe structure if the person feels in danger of impending lightning activity, without fear of repercussions or penalty from anyone.

We strongly encourage facility users to practice safety and always proceed with caution.