



WHAT TO DO WHEN SEVERE WEATHER APPROACHES

The College Station Parks & Recreation Department recognizes the importance of following safe practices during hazardous weather conditions. Your safety is always our top priority, and we have adopted specific guidelines to help protect you.

The Earth Networks Outdoor Alert System is installed at Adamson Lagoon Pool, Bee Creek Park, Brian Bachmann Community Park, Cindy Hallaran Pool, Stephen C. Beachy Central Park, Texas Independence Ballpark, Veterans Park & Athletic Complex, Wayne Smith Ball Fields, and Wolf Pen Creek Park.

The alert system detects lightning strikes within 10 miles. If it detects lightning in the area, park users hear one 15-second horn blast and see the strobe's continual flashing. You should stop activities immediately. The online system sets a 30-minute warning period after the first detection, and it resets to 30 minutes after each additional strike. Once the system receives the all-clear, the horn issues three 5-second blasts, and the light stops flashing.

Please note the system does not guarantee safe conditions. Data for lightning events at College Station parks equipped with the alert system is provided at cstx.gov/lightning.

Participants and guests of our recreation facilities should pay close attention to developing weather conditions. League officials, event managers, referees, and umpires are responsible for monitoring the weather and determining when to suspend activities. When officials are not present, coaches and parents are responsible for determining the course of action.

A wise adage is "If you can see it (lightning) flee it; if you can hear it (thunder), clear it." We offer these tips to help you stay safe when enjoying our beautiful parks:

- Establish a chain of command that identifies who has the authority to remove individuals from the field.
- Name a designated weather watcher to actively look for signs of threatening weather and notify the chain of command if a dangerous storm approaches.
- Monitor weather forecasts and warnings online or through local television and radio stations.
- If you see a lightning flash and hear thunder within 30 seconds — or see a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt — the storm is close enough for lightning to threaten your location. Suspend play immediately and take shelter.
- Suggested shelters in parks include enclosed buildings and automobiles. You are encouraged to leave the site if a safe structure is unavailable.
- Avoid being near the highest point in an open field or being on open water. Do not seek shelter near trees, flagpoles, or light poles.

Dangerous storms can develop quickly, especially in Texas. But by being vigilant and prepared, you can stay safe in College Station's parks — and live to play another day.