

# Clayton County Parks & Recreation Department

## Lightning Policy



**Lovejoy Soccer Complex  
(One day after lightning struck the field)**

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### **Chain of Command / Responsibility for Removing Participants**

- The responsibility for removing participants from the practice/game area in a timely manner lies with the person in charge of the group. (coach, counselor, trainer, coordinator, etc)
- During practice or game days, the coordinator has ultimate responsibility for clearing the fields.

### **Criteria for Evacuation of the Area**

The Clayton County Parks & Recreation Department policy will be as follows:

- The coordinator will inform the teams / participants of the park's policy with regard to lightning during when the weather conditions warrant.
- The coordinator will monitor the weather conditions and in some facilities a lightning detector may be used. The coordinator will watch for lightning and listen for thunder, and will be responsible for determining when the outdoor facilities are to be cleared.
- Once it is determined that there is a possibility of inclement weather/lightning/thunder or when the 8-20 mile alarm indicator is illuminated on the lightning detector, the coordinator will stand ready to take immediate action. An air horn or other communication device may be used as a form of communication.
- Once it is determined that there is an immediate danger of inclement weather/lightning/thunder or when the 3-8 mile alarm indicator is illuminated on the lightning detector the coordinator will clear the outdoor facility, if an air horn or other device is used they will give two long blasts of the air horn and suspend all games/practices.

Everyone must evacuate to a safe structure or location. Participants and spectators should be advised that we DO NOT consider the bathrooms, dugouts, bleachers, playground equipment and/or areas under the picnic shelters within our facilities to be deemed a safe location in the case of lightning. All parties will be urged to evacuate the entire facility immediately and remain in a safe location until conditions improve.

- All individuals should have the right to leave a site or activity, without fear of repercussion or penalty, in order to seek a safe structure or location if they feel that they are in danger from impending lightning activity.

### **Criteria for Safe Return to the Area**

- Participants and spectators should not return to the area until thirty (30) minutes have passed since the last lightning flash or the lightning detector indicates that lightning is greater than 20 miles away. In the event of an air horn or other device is used three short blast will signal it is safe to return to the area.
- Each time lightning is observed and/or thunder is heard, the "30-minute clock" is to be reset.
- Blue skies in the local area and/or a lack of rainfall are not adequate reasons to breach the 30-minute return-to-play rule. Lightning can strike up to ten (10) miles away from the rain shaft of a storm.