

**PURPOSE:**

The object of this guideline is to institute safeguards against the hazards of potential lightning risks and severe weather.

**Chain of Command**

The decision to suspend a game or practices in the event of lightning, severe weather will be made by a member of the Sports Medicine Staff present at a practice or game. Termination of the event is the decision of the Athletic Department.

**Perry Weather Outdoor Alerting System**

To encourage lightning safety, Dallas ISD Athletics & Sports Medicine Department have installed lightning alert systems at each Dallas ISD stadium. We will use the lightning alert systems as a weather-monitoring tool that will provide additional protection to employees, athletic participants and other patrons.

**What to Do When the System is Activated**

When the system detects lightning within 10 miles of the facility, the horns sound an uninterrupted 15-second blast and the strobe light will activate and begin to flash. Patrons who hear the horn and/or see the light need to seek shelter immediately. When the system no longer detects a threat, three 5-second blasts from the horn will sound and the strobe light will stop flashing. This is the signal that it is safe to return outdoors.

**Important: Do not assume it is safe to return to the field after 30 minutes.**

**In other words, the “all clear” may sound well beyond 30 minutes from activation.**

- Wait until the “all clear” signal is given before returning to the field.
- The system will also send out an “all clear” text message and email to appropriate personnel.
- The system is active during all athletic events consistent with the hours the fields are open for use.

**Perry Weather Warning System**

The Perry Weather system uses live, in-cloud and cloud-to-cloud lightning and weather data from the national network of more than 10,000 weather stations to assist us in making critical and operational decisions. This is a mass notification by email or text that is sent to all Athletic Trainers, Coaches, and Athletic Department that lightning is in the area to seek shelter.

**We will continue to use the 30- 30 Lightning safety rule as a backup.**

The “Flash-to-Bang” Method

This is a simple method to estimate how far away a lightning flash is.

- A. Begin timing in seconds as soon as a lightning flash is seen
- B. Stop timing as soon as a thunder sound is heard after the lightning flash. This number is the “flash-to-bang” count
- C. Divide the “flash-to-bang” count by five (5)
- D. The resulting number is the distance, in miles, from the practice/game area to the lightning flash



## Lightning and Severe Weather Guidelines

### **Safe Locations at our Stadiums:**

#### Primary Locations

Fieldhouse, Locker rooms. Any building normally occupied or frequently used by people – a grounded structure. Do not utilize showers.

#### Secondary Locations

Any vehicle or school bus with a hard metal roof and rolled up window can provide a measure of safety. Do not touch metal during the lightning storm.

#### Avoid being in or near:

High places, baseball/softball dugouts, bleachers, open fields, isolated trees, and unprotected areas.

#### Natatoriums

Participants, spectators and employees must leave the pool and surrounding pool deck area. Seek shelter inside the main building. Do not use the shower area as a shelter. Stay inside the building until all clear.

### **First Aid:**

People who have been struck by lightning do not carry an electrical charge. Therefore, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is safe for the responder. If possible, an injured person should be moved to a safer location before starting CPR. Prompt, aggressive CPR has been highly effective for the survival of victims of lightning strikes.