



CAPE YOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION, INC.

Standard Operating Procedures **Lightning Protocol Procedure**

Purpose

The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to ensure the safety of all participants, staff, and spectators present during youth sports activities at Storm Football Complex in the event of lightning. Given the outdoor nature of these activities, it is crucial to have a clear and effective protocol that addresses the risks associated with lightning storms.

Scope

This SOP applies to all coaches, team staff, volunteers, and participants involved in youth sports events at the Storm Football Complex. It also includes guidelines for evacuation and safety measures applicable to everyone present during these events

Procedure

1. Lightning is a threat to safety in southwest Florida. Several of our parks are equipped with the Earth Networks lightning alert system.
2. When lightning is detected within 10 miles a horn and strobe light activate. All outdoor activities must stop, and you must seek shelter immediately.
3. A board member in the board room will turn on the “yellow” switch alerting the public to the lightning delay.
4. If an announcer is present in the press box, they will immediately announce a warning using the PA system to cease all outdoor activities and instruct participants, staff, and spectators to vacate the facility unless actively playing.
5. The 30-minute timer will reset each time there is a lightning strike detected within the 10-mile radius of the park.
6. Protocol for practices:
 - Athletes will go to their designated locker rooms if the lightning alert system activates while on the field after 6:15pm.
 - 6U will go under the pavilion in front of the concession stand.
 - Parents are to seek shelter either under the pavilion or may return to their vehicles.
 - No one is to enter the facility if the lightning alert system is activated prior to 6:15pm until we receive the all clear.
 - In the event that practice gets cancelled while athletes are in their locker rooms, a parent/guardian must come to the locker room to get their athlete.
7. Protocol during game play:
 - Actively playing Storms teams will be sent to their designated locker room.
 - Opposing teams actively playing will be directed to the cover in front of concessions.
 - All spectators, parents, players and cheerleaders not actively playing will be directed to vacate the park and seek shelter in their vehicle.
 - Spectators will not be allowed to reenter the park until the all-clear has been given.
 - Concessions will temporarily close.
8. All-clear is indicated by three 5-second blasts from the horn will sound and the strobe light will stop.
9. A board member in the board room will turn the “yellow” switch off.



CAPE YOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION, INC.

10. The web widgets below will indicate which equipped parks are on alert and when the all-clear has been given. You can [Download the Weather](#) app by Earth Networks for more detailed weather information.

Prerequisites:

1. Identify and map out all safe shelter areas near the sports fields.

Personnel involved in this SOP and their responsibilities include:

Title	Responsibilities
Weather Watcher	Monitor real-time weather updates and alert necessary personnel if lightning is detected.
Coach/Team Leader	Ensure players and team staff are moved swiftly and safely to designated shelters.
Board Members and Security Staff	Coordinate communication and ensure the protocol is followed by all attendees.
Volunteer	Assist in guiding attendees to safe locations.