



Spring Branch Independent School District

Paige Hershey, CMAA
Cheryl Etlinger, CAA
Michael Stokebrand, CAA
Charles West, CAA

Athletics
1050 Dairy Ashford
Houston, TX 77079
Phone (713)251-1200 • Fax (713)251-9051

SBISD LIGHTNING POLICY

Lightning can strike from up to 10 miles away. Any storm within a 10-mile range presents a risk to anyone engaged in an outdoor activity or swimming at the Natatorium. Therefore, all outdoor/Natatorium activity is to be suspended until the monitoring authority has determined that it is safe to resume activity.

1. **Weather Alert**--Will be issued for the outdoor activity if there is a high probability of severe weather or lightning. When a weather alert occurs, a designated person should be put in charge of monitoring the weather. This may be an athletic director, athletic trainer, head coach or Campus Athletic Coordinator or Assistant Campus Athletic Coordinator.
2. **Perry Weather**— Perry Weather is an all-in-one system that provides us with real-time lightning alerts, including audible alerts through strobe light and audible blasts. Countdown timers and all clear notifications through text, push and on-site hardware are available to let us know when activity can resume. Risk levels for the day are available so we can plan ahead (ex. high chance of lightning delay between 5-6pm/prepare for alternate indoor activities). Based on our weather policies, the Perry software will tell us how to respond to weather events. This information can come as a text to multiple users, on mobile apps, or through the Outdoor Warning System. Perry Weather stations are currently located at Tully and Grob Stadiums, Memorial, Northbrook, Spring Woods and Stratford High Schools.

Lightning Safety Plan

Lightning can strike from up to 10 miles away, so any storm within a 10-mile range presents a risk to anyone engaged in an outdoor activity/swimming at the natatorium. The lightning safety plan will go into effect when the potential of dangerous lightning occurs within 10 miles of the venue and the following steps are to take place:

1. **Suspend** all outdoor activities/swimming at the natatorium.
2. **Evacuate** all outdoor persons to a safe structure. Examples of a safe shelter are automobile, bus, dressing room, or other building. A dugout or awning are not considered safe shelter.
3. **Monitor** inclement weather.
4. **Resume activity** – After an “all clear” signal, the game administrator will continue to monitor the weather and determine when it is safe to resume outside activity/swimming at the natatorium.
 - i. **Venues where Perry Weather is Installed** - The Perry Weather system will be followed when the horn system automatically activates. All persons should evacuate to a safe structure. Administrators should evacuate spectators from the stadium or field. Spectators should take shelter in their vehicles. Spectators without a vehicle should move to shelter designated by the game administrator. After an “all clear” signal and a wait time of no less than 30 minutes from the time of the last strike, the game administrator will continue to monitor the weather and determine when it is safe to resume outside activity/swimming at the natatorium.
 - ii. **Venues without a Perry Weather Horn** - When a lightning strike within 10 miles occurs, based on Perry Weather notifications to a game administrator's/athletic trainer's/coach's phone, all persons should evacuate to a safe structure. Administrators should evacuate spectators from the stadium or field. Spectators should take shelter in their vehicles. Spectators without a vehicle should move to shelter designated by the game administrator. The game administrator will continue to monitor the weather and determine when it is safe to resume outside activity.

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Dr. Jennifer Blaine, Superintendent of Schools