FORT BEND I.S.D. – ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT
16403 Lexington Blvd. Sugar Land, Texas 77479
FBISD.Athletics@fortbendisd.com

Fort Bend I.S.D – Lightning Guidelines

General Information

Seeking a safe structure or location at the first sight of lightning or thunder activity is highly recommended. All individuals will need to go inside when lightning strikes approach ten (10) miles from the location of play. The Perry Weather Alert System will be utilized as the primary indicator to determine when lightning strikes are becoming dangerously close. If Perry Weather Alert system is unavailable at the time, please utilize the flash-to-bang theory to determine the distance of the lightning strikes.

If a campus staff athletic trainer is present, the staff athletic trainer will be responsible for monitoring the weather conditions and informing coaches, game officials, student-athletes when conditions become unsafe and to immediately seek shelter. During home competitions, the home staff athletic trainer will be responsible for informing all parties stated above about the weather conditions. Coaches may not challenge or overrule the decision of the campus staff athletic trainer.

In the absence of a campus staff athletic trainer, the head coach or coach in charge is responsible for monitoring the weather conditions and making judgments based on the Perry Weather Alert System and/or Flash-to-Bang Theory.

Monitoring weather conditions at our district facilities including Mercer, Hall and the Aquatic Practice Facility, will be the responsibility of the athletic administrator. It is the athletic administrator's responsibility to notify coaches, game officials, student-athletes of the unsafe conditions and when to resume play.

Once activities have been suspended, you must wait for the "all clear" alert from Perry Weather. For the Flash-to-Bang Theory, you must wait at least 30 minutes following the last lightning flash or clap of thunder prior to resuming an activity or returning outdoors.

Perry Weather Alert System

Lightning Strikes Notification (within 10 miles)

- The text notification will alert the athletic trainer/coach/athletic administrator that a storm with lightning is within an unsafe range (within 10 miles). Fields and stands should be cleared immediately.
- Take appropriate shelter.
- Play may resume when an "all clear" message is received. "All clear" messages are sent 30 minutes after the last lightning strike in the unsafe range is detected.
- Expiration time is determined by a meteorologist with Perry Weather monitoring the storm. Depending on the longevity of the storm, the warning could possibly be extended, or a new warning issued.

FORT BEND I.S.D. – ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT
16403 Lexington Blvd. Sugar Land, Texas 77479
FBISD.Athletics@fortbendisd.com

During a Storm

- Avoid being in contact with, or in close proximity to, the highest point of an open field or on the open water.
- Do not take shelter under or near trees, flagpoles, or light poles.
- If you feel "hair stand on end, skin tingle, or hear crackling noises" you should assume the lightning position. The position is crouched on the ground, weight on the balls of the feet, feet together, head lowered, and ears covered. DO NOT LIE FLAT ON THE GROUND.
- People who have been struck by lightning do not carry an electrical charge. Therefore, cardiopulmonary resuscitation is safe for the responder. If possible, an injured person should be moved to a safer location before starting CPR and emergency plans should be carried out.

All individuals have the right to leave an athletic site in order to seek a safe structure if the person feels in danger of impending lightning activity without fear of repercussions or penalty from anyone.

Safe Shelter

- A safe location is any substantial, frequently inhabited building.
- The building should have four (4) solid walls (not a dug out), electrical and telephone wiring, as well as plumbing, all which aid in grounding a structure.
- The campus staff athletic trainer shall designate safe shelter locations for all fields on their campus.
- The secondar choice for a safer location from the lightning hazard is a fully enclosed vehicle with a metal roof and the windows completely closed. It is important to not touch any part of the metal framework of the vehicle while inside it during ongoing thunderstorms.
- It is not safe to shower, bathe or talk on landline phones while inside of a safe shelter during thunderstorms (cell phones are okay).