

## **KATY ISD LIGHTNING GUIDELINES**

While the probability of being struck by lightning is extremely low, the odds are significantly greater when a storm is in the area and proper safety precautions are not followed. Prevention and education are the keys to lightning safety. The athletic trainer, head coach and/or administrator using one of the three following methods will monitor conditions.

● **Weather Sentry** – This is an internet based weather reporting system that utilizes GPS to record active lightning strikes.

1. When a suspicious cloud/storm approaches, the athletic trainer/ head coach, assistant coach or administrator will monitor Weather Sentry.
2. Once the cloud/storm reaches the 8 mile range, the field should be evacuated

● **SkyScan** – This is a detection device that estimates the distance of lightning.

1. When a suspicious cloud/storm approaches, the athletic trainer/ head coach, assistant coach or administrator will activate and monitor SkyScan.
2. Monitor lightning by checking the read out periodically. Lightning detected in the 20-40 mile range moving into the 8-20 mile range indicates the cloud is moving closer to your location.
3. Once the cloud/storm reaches the 3-8 mile range, the field should be evacuated.

● **"Flash to Bang" method** - This method estimates the distance of lightning. Upon seeing the flash of lightning, start counting the seconds until thunder is heard. Divide the time in seconds by five to measure distance. 55

1. When suspicious cloud/storm approaches, the athletic trainer/ head coach, assistant coach or administrator shall monitor the approaching storm using the flash bang method.
2. Once the flash bang count reaches 30 seconds or less, the field should be evacuated.

### **Evacuation Procedures**

The students should be evacuated to a safe shelter. Staying away from tall or individual trees, lone objects (light or flag poles), metal objects, and open fields. Examples of safe shelter are a bus, dressing room, or other building. A dug out or awning are not considered safe shelter. Administrators should evacuate spectators from the stadium.

### **Resume Practice and Competition**

Once a game or practice has been suspended the storm should continue to be monitored. No contest or practice should be resumed until:

1. The lightning has moved out of the ten mile radius on the Weather Sentry system.
2. No lightning strike has been detected within 3-8 mile range for 30 consecutive minutes using the SkyScan.
3. No lightning strike has been detected within 6 miles for 30 consecutive minutes using the Flash Bang method.

Although the home team is responsible for each game or match, it should be noted that the athletic trainer, head coach and/or administrator is wholly responsible for the safety and well-being of adults and students in his/her charge. If no policy is in effect at the out of town site, it is recommended that the Katy ISD guidelines be followed.