

ELK GROVE PARK DISTRICT
Volunteer Expectations

Another safety concern, especially for outdoor sports, is severe weather. The most severe conditions to note in our geographic area include tornadoes and lightning. For all threatening weather, however, outdoor activities should cease and patrons and staff should seek shelter, even if a warning signal has not been sounded. As a coach, the following conditions require immediate action on your part.

Tornado WATCH

This means that conditions are favorable for a tornado to develop. Listen to the radio for changes in conditions and be prepared to act appropriately.

Under Tornado *WATCH* conditions, it is generally recommended that:

- Special events be postponed if the probability of a warning is high
- Outdoor programs be discontinued if lightning is observed from any distance
- Dismissal of programs involving children occurs only when a parent has arrived, otherwise, children should be protected until the threatening period is over
- Indoor activities continue as normal. Contact all facilities and the program coordinator as necessary
- A response team member continuously monitors a television or radio for current weather updates
- A response team member serves as a “spotter” in the direction of the approaching threatening weather

Tornado WARNING

This means that a tornado has been sighted. If one is issued for your area, you should seek shelter immediately!

In the event of a Tornado *WARNING* from the weather service, or if real conditions have been observed, the following are pertinent recommendations:

- Make sure you are aware of the shelter for the facility near your location. Shelters are different for each facility.
- Coaches are responsible for getting participants to a safe place. If outside, stay away from metal or tall structures, seek low area (ditch,) get in a crouch position, covering head with hands, 15 feet separating individuals.
- Assist visiting teams; they may not be aware of the closest safe locations.
- Notify facility managers, supervisors and program leaders of present conditions.
- Follow the specific security plans for each individual facility.
- Turn off electronic equipment (computers, TVs, etc.)
- Locate immediate need supplies (flashlights, etc.)

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Lightning

Elk Grove Village is monitored by ThorGuard Lightning Prediction and Warning Systems. Nearly all Park District facilities and parks have the prediction units. The systems monitor electrostatic levels in the atmosphere for up to a 15 mile radius. The alarm is activated if the electrical activity and threat of lightning is within a 2.5 mile radius.

The system gives the warning 8 -10 minutes before a strike occurs, so lightning strikes may not yet be visible. When the warning occurs, EVERYONE – players, parents, coaches – must leave the field and wait in their vehicles. Do not use any electronic equipment while waiting in vehicles. A convertible or soft-top car is not considered safe by the National Weather Service. Ensure that all visitors (players, parents, coaches) follow the same safety procedure. The system will give the all-clear signal 10 minutes after the last threat, based on electrical activity in the atmosphere. You must wait for YOUR ThorGuard unit to give the all clear signal; play may not resume if a ThorGuard unit across town gives the all clear.

Listen and look for the warning system's signals. Let your common sense prevail.

<i>Warning Sound / Visual Warning</i>	<i>What it Means</i>
One Long Horn Blast (Audible Warning)	Immediate Threat of Lightning Activity
Strobe Flashing (Visual Warning)	Lightning Warning is in Effect
Three Short Horn Blasts (Audible Warning)	All Clear
No Strobe Flash (Visual Warning)	All Clear