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| Policy Area: Environmental Considerations | Subject: Lightning |
| Title of Policy: Lightning Policy | Effective Date: 9/1/2024 |
| Approved Date: 8/27/2024 | Revision Date: N/A |

Lightning Policy

Purpose:

To help reduce the risk of injury or death from lightning strike to the BRSC athletes, coaches, competitors, staff, and spectators.

Patients should be evaluated and treated in the following order:

- Move patients carefully to a safer location if needed
- Evaluate and treat for apnea and absence of heartbeat
- Assess level of consciousness
- Evaluate and treat for the possibility of spinal injuries
- Evaluate and treat for hypothermia

If an AED is available, it should be applied on anyone who appears to be unconscious, pulseless or apneic.

Definitions:

Safe location:

Fully enclosed buildings with wiring and plumbing. This means all doors and windows must be shut. If a safe building is not available, then a fully enclosed vehicle with a solid metal roof and sides can provide nearly equivalent safety. This also means all doors and windows must be shut.

*Although small, there is still a possibility the electrical charge from lightning can travel through wiring or plumbing and impact the individuals inside a substantial building.

Unsafe location:

Anything not meeting the requirements for a safe location. Examples include picnic and park shelters, concession stands, open press boxes, open garages, and storage sheds.



Burbank Park

Burbank Park has installed Perry Weather lightning detection system. In the event lightning is detected within an unsafe mileage (8 miles) from the complex, a long and sustained horn will sound, along with a flashing light that can be seen on the northeast light pole on field 4. If the system sounds, referees will end games, coaches will end training, and both will send athletes, fans, and staff off the playing fields to a safe location. There are no lightning safe structures at Burbank Park. All players, staff, and spectators should wait in their lightning safe vehicles. The status of the lightning in the area can be tracked in real time at <https://brsoccer.org/lightning> . If parents choose to drop their child off prior to or during inclement weather, they should have a plan in place for their child's safety. This could be, but is not limited to, a prompt return to the park or designating another adult, who is at the field, to take responsibility for the child during the lightning delay.

The lightning system at Burbank Park will only sound the "All Clear" signal once the threat of lightning has moved a safe distance (greater than 8 miles) from field 6 pavilion. The all-clear signal consists of three (3) short horn bursts. After the all-clear signal sounds, you may re-enter the playing field. Visible blue sky or absence of rain does not indicate that the area is safe, or free of lightning.

Independence Park

An administrator, according to the administrative organizational chart, will make all lightning/inclement weather decisions. The status of the lightning in the area can be tracked in real time at <https://brsoccer.org/lightning> . If lightning is within a dangerous range of the park (8-miles), all games and practices will end, and referees and coaches will send athletes, fans, and coaching staff to safe locations. The library and theatre are both substantial buildings. However, their operating hours are not guaranteed to be during BRSC programming. All players, staff, and spectators should wait in their lightning safe vehicles. Visible blue sky or absence of rain does not indicate that the area is safe, or free of lightning.

Lovett Road Park

An administrator, according to the administrative organizational chart, will make all lightning/inclement weather decisions. The status of the lightning in the area can be tracked in real time at <https://brsoccer.org/lightning> . If lightning is within a dangerous range of the park (8-miles), all games and practices will end, and referees and coaches will send athletes, fans, and coaching staff to their vehicles for shelter. The BREC building, not the pavilion, is a lightning safe shelter. However, the hours of operation do not often align with BRSC programming. All players, staff, and spectators should wait in their lightning safe vehicles. Visible blue sky or absence of rain does not indicate that the area is safe, or free of lightning.



Flanacher Park

An administrator, according to the administrative organizational chart, will make all lightning/inclement weather decisions. The status of the lightning in the area can be tracked in real time at <https://brsoccer.org/lightning> . If lightning is within a dangerous range of the park (8-miles), all games and practices will end, and referees and coaches will send athletes, fans, and coaching staff to their vehicles for shelter. The BREC building in the back of the park, not the pavilion at the entrance, is a lightning safe shelter. However, the hours of operation do not often align with BRSC programming. All players, staff, and spectators should wait in their lightning safe vehicles. Visible blue sky or absence of rain does not indicate that the area is safe, or free of lightning.

Olympia Stadium

An administrator, according to the administrative organizational chart, will make all lightning/inclement weather decisions. The status of the lightning in the area can be tracked in real time at <https://brsoccer.org/lightning> . If lightning is within a dangerous range of the park (8-miles), all games and practices will end, and referees and coaches will send spectators to their vehicles for shelter. The locker rooms are a lightning safe shelter. These should be used by the home and visiting teams and staff. All doors and windows should remain closed for the duration of the lightning delay. All spectators should wait in their lightning safe vehicles. Visible blue sky or absence of rain does not indicate that the area is safe, or free of lightning.