

Administrative Procedure 555

LIGHTNING SAFETY

Background

In order to maintain the safety of students and staff, well planned supervision of students during a thunderstorm is vital. Preparedness for a thunderstorm is essential.

Procedures

1. Lightning Safety Rule – If you can hear thunder, you are within lightning striking distance. Get into the best shelter available and stay in that shelter for a full 30 minutes aft the last rumble of thunder to ensure the storm has moved well away from your location.
2. Lightning risk reduction outdoors when a safe location is nearby.
 - 2.1 A safe building is one that is full y enclosed with a roof, walls and floor, plumbing and/or wiring. An unsafe structure would include car ports, open garages, picnic shelters, beach pavilions, golf shelters, tents, baseball dugouts, sheds.
 - 2.2 A safe vehicle is any fully enclosed metal topped vehicle (ie: car, minivan, bus, truck etc).
3. Lightning risk reduction outdoors when a safe location is not nearby. If caught outside far from a safe shelter, consider the following:
 - 3.1 Avoid being the highest point in an open area. Swinging a golf club or holding an umbrella can make you the tallest object and a target for lightning.
 - 3.2 Seek shelter in low-lying areas such as valleys, ditches and depressions.
 - 3.3 Keep alert for flash floods, sometimes caused by heavy rainfall, if seeking shelter in a ditch or low-lying area.
 - 3.4 Stay away from water.
 - 3.5 Stay away from objects that conduct electricity, such as tractors, golf carts, golf clubs, metal fences, bicycles.

Reference: Environment Canada – Lightning Safety
Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety

