

LIGHTNING GUIDELINES

BROWARD COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

Lightning Prediction Systems

Lightning kills more people in Florida than all other weather hazards combined! Outdoor activities will be suspended when the horns sound (a 15 –second warning blast) or any sign of imminent lightning is observed. Once the audible alarm has sounded and strobes are flashing, shelter should be taken, either in a large building or a vehicle (not a convertible). Outdoor activity may be resumed *only* after three 5-second horn blasts have sounded, ensuring the storm has moved out of the area, and the strobe warning lights are off.

30/30 Rule

For facilities without an electronic prediction system or periods the warning horns are off, the standard 30 second/30 minute rule is in effect, as follows: if the time between the flash of lightning and sound of thunder *is less than 30 seconds*, take shelter. After a storm, 30 minutes must elapse before outdoor activities can be resumed. Each observation of either lightning or thunder initiates another 30 minute waiting period.

IF YOU DISREGARD THE 30/30 RULE OR REMAIN OUTDOORS AFTER A WARNING ALARM IS ISSUED YOU DO SO AT YOUR OWN RISK!!

Park personnel will try to advise patrons of adverse weather, as long as they do not endanger their own safety. The Park Manager or on-site supervisor will have the final decision concerning reopening activity centers, rescheduling and if applicable, refund requests.

General Precautions

Avoid being in or near high places and open fields, near isolated trees, baseball dugouts, communications towers, flagpoles, light poles, bleachers (metal or wood), metal fences, convertibles or golf carts. If you are in a vehicle or truck with a solid roof, keep hands and feet away from the metal frame. When inside a building, avoid use of conductive surfaces with exposure to the outside such as metal door or window frames, electrical, telephone, and cable TV wiring, plumbing, etc. Use of telephone lines should be restricted to emergency communications.

Anglers and boaters should exit lakes or canals and seek shelter when storms approach. Once on land, move at least 100 yards away from shore or any body of water and seek safe shelter. If safe shelter is not available and you feel your skin tingle or your hair stand on end, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Crouch on the ground with your arms wrapped around your knees and only the balls of your feet touching the ground. Make yourself the smallest target possible. Do not lie flat on the ground.