

# **Emergency Action Plan—Lightning/Inclement Weather**

## **Detecting Lightning**

If inclement weather is forecasted or sighted in the area, the on site certified athletic trainer (ATC) will use both the MxVision WeatherSentry Online updates and the flash-to-bang method to monitor for lightning strikes.

1. MxVision WeatherSentry will send mobile updates to the on site athletic trainer via mobile phone when lightning is present in the area. If MxVision WeatherSentry is not available to the on site athletic trainer, the flash-to-bang method will be used.
2. To use the flash-to-bang method, the observer begins counting when a lightning flash is sighted. Counting is stopped when the associated bang (thunder) is heard. Divide this count by 5 to determine the distance of the lightning flash (in miles).

## **Safe Shelters**

The on site ATC shall have the authority to remove participants from athletic venues or activities when lightning may be a threat to student-athlete or spectator safety. If lightning is in the immediate area, the on site ATC will notify the head coach as to the status of the inclement weather and of need to take shelter.

1. Safe shelter for football/track—Ron Mafrige Field House
2. Safe shelter for baseball/softball—Don Sanders Field House
3. Safe shelter for soccer—Johnson Coliseum
4. Safe shelter for tennis—Johnson Coliseum

If no safe shelter is within a reasonable distance, then other safe areas include: enclosed buildings, fully enclosed metal vehicles with windows up (no convertibles or golf carts) Unsafe shelter areas: water, open fields, dugouts, golf carts, metal objects (bleachers, fences, etc.), individual tall trees, light poles. Avoid being the highest object in an open field.

## **Suspension and Resumption of Athletic Activities**

As a minimum, the NCAA and the National Severe Storms laboratory (NSSL), strongly recommend that all individuals have left the athletic sites and reach a safe shelter by the flash-to-bang count of 30 seconds (6 miles). However, lightning can strike as far as 10 miles and it does not have to rain for lightning to strike. Activities will be terminated at the 40 seconds or 8 miles.

Activity may resume once the on site ATC gives permission. It will be deemed safe to resume activity 30 minutes after the last lightning strike or once MxVision WeatherSentry Online shows no lightning in the area.