



CRSA Inclement Weather & Missing Child Protocols  
Cedar River Soccer Association  
April 29-30, 2023

**2023 CRSA Chillout Inclement Weather & Missing Child Protocols**

In the event of bad weather or a missing child, the Tournament Director will communicate with Field Marshals to help pass on information. An airhorn will go off to inform tournament participants.

**\*\*If the Tournament Director requests that the field be cleared, teams DO NOT have an option and MUST immediately return to their vehicles.\*\***

We will then notify teams by airhorn and by Tournament Staff letting everyone know that it is ok to return to the fields and resume play.

- **One long blast** from the air horn means clear the field.
- **Two short blasts** from the air horn means that players and parents can return to the fields.
- **Three short blasts** from the air horn means a child is missing and we are on a lockdown – no one can enter or leave the complex. Security is notified and Field Marshals will report to the main exits so that people can **NOT** enter or leave the complex.

**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND COOPERATION TO THIS IMPORTANT POLICY!**

**CRSA Lightning Policy**

The lightning detector will be set to alert at a 3 mile radius. If the detector goes off:

- The Tournament Director will be notified immediately;
- The Tournament Director will consult with the Chillout Tournament Staff;
- If a decision is made to halt tournament play, Field Marshals, etc. will be notified;
- There will a long blast from the air horn and Field Marshals will announce a halt to play and will request that every to proceed to their vehicles for shelter; and
- Game play will resume after a minimum of 30 minutes since the last lightning detection.



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**Lightning Safety Outdoors**

**Safe Buildings**

A safe building is one that is fully enclosed with a roof, walls and floor, such as a home, school, office building or shopping center. Even inside, you should take precautions. Picnic shelters, dugouts and other partially open structures are NOT safe.

Enclosed buildings are safe because of wiring and plumbing. If lightning strikes these types of buildings, or an outside phone pole, the electrical current from the flash will typically travel through the wiring or the plumbing into the ground. This is why you should stay away from showers, sinks, hot tubs, etc., and electronic equipment such as TVs, radios, and computers.

Lightning can damage or destroy electronics so it's important to have a proper lightning protection system connected to your electronic equipment. The American Meteorological Society has tips for protecting your electronics from lightning.

**Safe Vehicle**

A safe vehicle is a hard-topped car, SUV, minivan, bus, tractor, etc. (soft topped convertibles are not safe). If you seek shelter in your vehicle, make sure all doors are closed and windows rolled up. Do not touch any metal surfaces.

If you are driving when a thunderstorm starts, pull off the roadway. A lightning flash hitting the vehicle could startle you and cause temporary blindness, especially at night.

Do not use electronic devices such as HAM radios or cell phones during a thunderstorm. Lightning striking the vehicle, especially the antennas, could cause serious injury if you are talking the radio or holding the microphone at the time of the flash. Emergency officials such as police officers, firefighters, security officers, etc., should use extreme caution using radio equipment when lightning is in the area.

Your vehicle and its electronics may be damaged if hit by lightning. Vehicle struck by lightning are known to have flat tires the next day. This occurs because the lightning punctures tiny holes in the tires. Vehicles have caught fire after being struck by lightning; however, there is no modern day documented cases of vehicles "exploding" due to a lightning flash.

**Bolts from the Blue**

There are times when a lightning flash can travel horizontally many miles away from the thunderstorm cloud itself and then strike the ground. These types of lightning flashes are called "Bolts from the Blue" because they seem to come out of a clear blue sky. Although these flashes are rare, they have been known to cause fatalities.



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**WHEN A SAFE LOCATION IS NEARBY**

When a safe location is nearby, follow the “**30/30 Rule**”.

- Seek safe shelter when you first hear thunder, see dark threatening clouds developing overhead or lightning. Count the seconds between the time you see lightning and hear the thunder. You should already be in a safe location if that time is less than 30 seconds.
- Stay inside until 30 minutes after you last hear thunder.

Determine how far you are from a safe enclosed building or a safe vehicle. As soon as you hear thunder, see lightning or see dark threatening clouds, get to a safe location. Then wait 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder before you leave the safe location. If you are part of a group, particularly a large one, you will need more time to get all group members to safety. NWA recommends having professional lightning detection equipment so your group can be alerted from significant distances from the event site.

When groups are involved, the time needed to get to safety increases. So you need to start leaving sooner. Your entire groups should already be in a safe location when the approaching storm reaches within 5 miles from your location.

- Do NOT seek shelter under tall isolated trees! The tree may help you stay dry, but will significantly increase your risk of being struck by lightning. Rain will not kill you, but the lightning can!
- Do NOT seek shelter under partially enclosed buildings.
- Stay away from tall, isolated objects. Lightning typically strikes the tallest object. That may be you in an open field or clearing.
- Know the weather patterns of the area. For example, in mountainous areas, thunderstorms typically develop in the early afternoon, so plan to hike early in the day and be down the mountain by noon.
- Know the weather forecast. If there is a high chance of thunderstorms, curtail your outdoor activities.
- Do not place your campsite in an open field on the top of a hill or on a ridge top. Keep your site away from tall isolated trees or other tall objects. If you are in a forest, stay near a lower stand of trees. If you are camping in an open area, set up camp in a valley, ravine, or other low area. A tent offers NO protection from lightning.
- Wet ropes can make excellent conductors. This is BAD news when it comes to lightning activity. If you are mountain climbing and see lightning, and can do so safely, removed unnecessary ropes extended or attached to you. If a rope is extended across a mountain face and lightning makes contact with it, the electrical current will likely travel along the rope, especially if it is wet.
- Stay away from metal objects, such as fences, poles and backpacks. Metal is an excellent conductor. The current from a lightning flash will easily travel for long distances.

If lightning is in the immediate area, and there is no safe location nearby, get into the lightning desperation position. Crouch down, but do NOT lay down. Bend your knees down while keeping your feet together.