

SMART Institute Lightning Policy

1. The responsibility of removing athletes from the practice field, due to lightning, lies with the athletic trainer and the head coach in the athletic trainers' absence.
2. The responsibility of removing athletes from a game due to lightning, lies with the officials of that game.
3. The athletic trainer will monitor the weather and advise the officials and coaching staff of the weather situation.

Monitoring

Flash to bang Method: A five second count between the time you see lightning to the time you hear thunder means the lightning is approximately one mile away. For any count less than 30 seconds, using this method, the athletic trainer will remove all persons in the area to a safe shelter.

A digital hand held lightning detector will also be used (SKYSCAN).

Safe shelters are defined as those buildings with plumbing, electrical wiring and telephone service. Open fields, isolated fields, high terrain, bodies of water and contact with metal should be avoided. Cell phones are a safer alternative to land lines for communication.

Activities should not resume until a minimum of 30 minutes have passed from the last flash to bang heard.

The athletic trainer will check with the National Weather Service as well as the digital lightning detector prior to games or practice to ensure no harmful weather is approaching.

Safe shelters will be determined for each athletic venue.