

Tallah Falls School **Lightning Policy** Home Athletic Contests & Practices

The Game Administrator / TFS Coach / properly trained personnel will communicate the TFS Lightning Policy to teams and officials involved; will monitor the lightning detector and weather; and will initiate the sheltering and evacuation procedures.

Set the Utility Thunderbolt Storm Detector visual alarm (red) at 20 miles, Audible Alarm I at 15 miles, and Audible Alarm II at 12 miles.

Stage 1 - At Visual (RED light) Alarm (20 miles) continue to monitor the storm closely.

Stage 2 - At Audible Alarm I (15 miles), Game Administrator should announce, “We are monitoring a storm in the general area. Anyone with special needs might want to begin seeking shelter.”

Stage 3 - At Audible Alarm II (12 miles), Stop activities and seek shelter *until storm is beyond 12 miles!*

Stage 4 - “WARNING! STORM IS LOCAL!” monitor message means **STORM IS WITHIN 8 MILES! SEEK SAFE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY!**

Safe Return to the Practice/Contest Area When Storm is BEYOND 12 MILES

Common Thunderbolt Monitor Text Messages

STRIKES DETECTED! – lightning activity detected and gathering more data

CLOSEST ACTIVITY (XX) MILES – closest detected stroke during initial data collection

STORM ACTIVITY (XX) MILES – location of plotted storm

STORM ACTIVITY ETA (XX) MINUTES – estimated arrival of storm based on distance and approach speed

WARNING! STORM IS LOCAL! – storm is w/n 8 miles and striking distance. **SEEK SHELTER IMMEDIATELY!**

TIME TO CLEAR: (xx:XX) MINUTES – time it will take for storm to move at least (X) miles from detector location

SQUALL LINE OR MULTIPLE STORMS – storm(s) detected, exercise caution.

Adapted from School District of Indian River County, Florida 6-11-12 revised

Shelter / Evacuation

TFS athletes are to go inside the field house (when at upper field), baseball dugout or vehicle (when at baseball field), or to a safe location and wait for announcements.

The visiting team should go inside the field house or dugout (away from fences) or to their team bus/vehicles. The exterior of the field house, bleachers, and open areas are not safe and should be cleared.

A vehicle is considered safe if it is fully enclosed with a hard metal roof, rubber tires, and completely closed windows. Persons should not touch the sides of the vehicle! Convertible, "soft-top" vehicles and golf carts do not provide a high level of protection and should not be considered safe.

If unable to reach safe shelter, persons should stay away from the tallest trees or objects (i.e. light poles, flag poles, etc.), metal objects (i.e. fences, bleachers, etc.), individual trees, standing pools of water, and open fields. Persons should avoid being the highest object in an open field.

In situations where thunder and/or lightning may or may not be present, yet someone feels his/her hair stand on end and skin tingle, LIGHTNING IS IMMINENT! Assume the "lightning-crouch" position heels together and hands over ears.

All individuals have the right to leave the site or activity, without fear of repercussion or penalty, in order to seek a safe structure or location if they feel that they are in danger from impending lightning activity. .

Pre-hospital Care of Victims of a Lightning Strike

The first priority is to move the lightning strike victim to a safe location. Prompt, aggressive CPR has been highly effective for the survival of victims of lightning strikes. CPR and AED use is initiated as soon as safely possible.

At TFS, an AED is located with the soccer team (in soccer side of field house), baseball team (home dugout during baseball season), gym upstairs basketball storage area, student center next to restrooms, and weight room on top of the green shelf.

8-23-10 Adapted from <http://www.gsasoccer.com/lightning/index.html> and <http://www.indianriverschools.org/SiteDirectory/HR/Safety/Documents/Thunderbolt%20Lightning%20Detector.pdf> 6-11-12

Thunderbolt International 1-800-244-2202 www.Tbi-usa.com

