

Lightning Safety Procedures

The capricious nature of thunderstorms makes them extremely dangerous; however, following proven lightning safety guidelines can reduce the risk of injury or death. Managers, coaches and Park Rangers have the responsibility to act to ensure the safety of the children when threatened by lightning. NVLL has purchased and will use SkyScan Lightning Detectors at all parks. These devices detect bursts of electromagnetic radiation in the form of very low frequency radio signals generated by lightning flashes up to 40 miles away. The following lightning policy has been implemented, and **will be enforced**, by NVLL.

When a ground strike of lightning has occurred within eight miles of the park, the Park Ranger will generate **three 5-second air horn blasts**. If the field is equipped with a PA system, Park Rangers should use it to inform participants to immediately evacuate the fields. When you hear the air horn blasts or announcement, you must:

- Suspend all games and practices immediately.
- Stay away from metal including fencing and bleachers.
- Get EVERYONE to clear the outdoor facility and walk (not run) to seek shelter in a car or building. Dugouts are NOT considered adequate protection from lightning.
- If park patrons refuse to leave the facilities, they do so at their own risk. However, Managers should ensure all players are accounted for and protected.
- Ensure everyone remains in their vehicle or building until the Park Ranger generates the “All Clear” signal, which is **one (1) long air horn blast**. This will occur when 30 minutes have elapsed with no ground strikes within eight miles

Managers who do not comply with the above are subject to immediate disciplinary action by the board.

The ultimate truth about lightning is that it is unpredictable and cannot be prevented. Therefore, any manager, coach, or umpire who feels threatened by an approaching storm should stop play and get the kids to safety—regardless of whether or not the lightning detector goes off. If parents are attending a game where they feel the weather is unsafe but the umpires do not suspend the game, they always have the right to leave the game and take their kids with them.

Remember, it's only a game