

Pickens County Recreation Department
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Pickens County Emergency Management Agency & Recreation Department Severe Weather Standard Operating Procedure

PURPOSE

The Recreation Department has purchased portable lightning/storm detection equipment that was recommended by the Pickens County Emergency Management Agency and National Weather Service for the purpose of providing advanced warning when dangerous weather is approaching. The purpose of this SOP is to define the steps to be followed in the event of severe weather that could pose a threat to participants, members of the public and staff during recreational activities.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Recreation department will assure that:

- The lightning detection equipment is kept in a secure location when not in use.
- Extra 9-volt batteries are available at each site where equipment is used at all times.
- Equipment is turned off when not in use to assure longer battery life.
- Staff members are appropriately trained on how to use the equipment, as well as what actions to take in the event of a warning requiring all activities to cease.
- A staff member will be identified as the “weather monitor” for each event and will follow the procedures listed below whenever an alarm is received.

PROCEDURES

These procedures will be followed by the Recreation Department staff, officials, participants, and citizens in the event of the detection of severe weather during outdoor activities.

The following action will occur when the detector indicates storm distances by sounding an audible alarm, as well as lighting up the storm distance indicator lights:

20-40 miles - Weather Monitor will continue to closely monitoring detection equipment.

8-20 miles - Weather Monitor will put game/event officials on alert that a storm is approaching the area and continue closely monitoring detection equipment. Play may continue.

3-8 miles (or less) - WEATHER MONITOR WILL NOTIFY OFFICIAL TO CEASE ALL ACTIVITIES IMMEDIATELY FOR A 20-MINUTE DELAY. Weather Monitor and officials will advise participants, spectators, officials and staff to seek cover away from the field, in a nearby building or in their vehicles and wait for all clear or for the game/activity to be called off.

- Weather Monitor will continue to monitor the detection equipment, advising officials of the ALL CLEAR when the detection equipment no longer indicates a storm within 3 to 8 miles.
- Normal play may resume. Weather Monitor will continue to monitor the detection equipment for further storms