



2012 CRSA Chill Out Inclement Weather Protocol

In the event of bad weather, the Tournament Director will communicate with Field Marshals to help pass on information. An air horn also will go off to inform tournament participants.

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

We will then notify teams by air horn 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** mean 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 3 main exits so that people can NOT enter or leave the complex.

Four short air horn blasts means the child has been found and to resume to your field position.

THANKS 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 detector goes off;

- Tournament director will be notified immediately.
- Tournament director will consult with Chill Out Staff.
- If a decision is made to halt the tournament, Field Marshalls, etc., will be notified.
- There should be a “lightning safety” document of some sort included in the packets that go out the teams (??)
- There will be a bullhorn and a Field Marshall Announcement, stating that people should proceed to their cars for shelter.
- Play to resume after a minimum of 30 minutes since last detection.

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 a 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 telephone 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 its 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're 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 on 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. Vehicles 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.

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. NWS 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 group 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, remove 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 (see Figure 2).



Figure 2: Lightning Desperation Position