



Mount Pleasant SC
COME ON OVER

Mount Pleasant Recreation Department

R.L. Jones Center -- 391 Egypt Road - Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464
Phone: 843/884-2528 - Fax: 843/849-2778 - www.tompsec.com

TITLE: LIGHTNING SAFETY

DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2013

REFERENCE NUMBER: RM

NRPA RELATED STANDARD: 9.3, 9.6

TOWN RELATED POLICY:

RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY: RECREATION DIRECTOR

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PURPOSE: To insure as much as possible that the safety of participants is a priority and provide the proper procedure to mitigate the lightning hazard at any Mt. Pleasant Recreation Department's (MPRD) pools, facilities and activities.

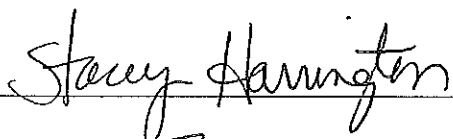
POLICY: Lightning is the most consistent and significant weather hazard that may affect outdoor activities; therefore the following procedures are to be followed to help insure the safety of MPRD participants and spectators by monitoring how far away the lightning is occurring and how fast the storm is approaching, relative to the distance of a safe shelter.

SPECIFIC PROCEDURES:

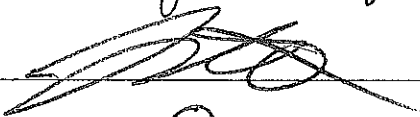
1. MPRD has established a chain of command as to who monitors threatening weather and who makes the decision to remove a team or individuals from an outdoor site or event. The chain of command will be as follows:
 - A. For outside facilities and activities
 1. Facility Supervisor/Program Monitors assigned to site/event
 2. Game Officials/Referees/Umpires
 3. Recreation Coordinator/Specialist assigned to activity
 4. Athletic/Program Division Chief
 5. Assistant Director
 6. Director
 - B. For pools, facilities and activities
 1. Lifeguard
 2. Recreation Coordinator/Specialist
 3. Program Division Chief
 4. Assistant Director
 5. Director
2. The Facility Supervisor/Program Monitor assigned to the activity/site will be the MPRD's representative at the site in the absence of the Recreation Coordinator/Specialist. The Facility Supervisor/Program Monitor will include in their daily procedures monitoring of the weather by visual, audio and electronic means.

3. MPRD will obtain a weather report each day prior to a practice or event. Staff will be aware of potential thunderstorms that may form during scheduled activities.
4. MPRD will monitor the weather reports and National Weather Service-issued (NWS) thunderstorm “watches” and “warnings” as well as signs of thunderstorms developing nearby.
 - a. A **watch** means that conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area.
 - b. A **warning** means that severe weather has been reported in an area and for everyone to take proper precautions.
5. MPRD Staff will know where the closest “safe structure or location” is to the field/court or play area and will know how long it takes to get to that safe structure or location. Safe structure or location is defined as:
 - a. Any building normally occupied or frequently used by people; i.e., a building with plumbing and/or electrical wiring that acts to electrically ground the structure. Shower facilities are not to be used for safe shelter and **do not use** the showers or plumbing facilities during a thunderstorm.
 - b. In the absence of a sturdy, frequently inhabited building, any vehicle with a hard metal roof (not a convertible or golf cart) and rolled-up windows can provide a measure of safety. The sides of the vehicle are not to be touched.
6. MPRD has designated the following areas as a “safe structure or location” for the sites listed below:
 - a. R.L. Jones Center Complex – The R.L. Jones Center building, softball field press box with roll up windows closed or individual vehicles in parking lot.
 - b. Duffy Complex – The concession stand/storage building or individual vehicles in parking lot.
 - c. Patriots Point – Individual vehicles in parking lot.
 - d. Park West – MPRD Park West building, Park West gym, Pavilion building or individual vehicles in parking lot.
 - e. Whipple Road Complex – Tennis Center building or individual vehicles in parking lot.
 - f. Sloan Park - Individual vehicles in parking lot.
 - g. Moultrie Middle School - Individual vehicles in parking lot.
 - h. Town Hall Track & Field – Town Hall gym or individual vehicles in parking lot.
 - i. Old Wando Baseball Field- Press box or individual vehicles in parking lot.
 - j. Whitesides Elementary School - Individual vehicles in parking lot.
 - k. Reid & Speights Street Fields - Individual vehicles in parking lot.
 - l. Trident Academy Field – Individual vehicles in parking lot.
 - m. Cario Multipurpose Field - Individual vehicles in parking lot.
 - n. James B. Edwards Elementary School - Individual vehicles in parking lot.
 - o. Community Centers – Community center building or individual vehicles in parking lot.
 - p. Julian Weston Tennis Courts - Individual vehicles in parking lot.
 - q. G.M. Darby Building – The Darby building or individual vehicles in parking lot.
 - r. James B. Edwards Park - Individual vehicles in parking lot.
 - s. Alhambra Hall & Park – Alhambra Hall building or individual vehicles in parking lot.
 - t. Kearns Park and Pitt Street Bridge - Individual vehicles in parking lot.

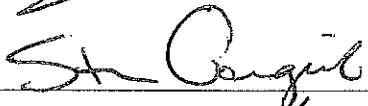
7. Overhangs, toilet trailers, restroom buildings, picnic shelters, tents, dugouts or other areas not listed in section 6 are **not to be used** to avoid lightning.
8. Clearing the Pool Facility: All patrons and facility staff should be cleared from the water and the surrounding area (pool deck) immediately at the first sounding of thunder or the first sighting of lightning. Everyone should leave immediate pool area (pool deck) and not go to the showers. The lobby can be utilized for waiting until the storm passes.
9. It is the responsibility of MPRD Staff to be aware of how close lightning is occurring, by using a combination of the "flash-to-bang method" and issued lightning detectors. To use the "flash-to-bang method", count the seconds from the time the lightning is sighted to when the clap of thunder is heard. Divide this number by five (5) to obtain how far away (in miles) the lightning is occurring. For example, if an individual counts 15 seconds between seeing the flash and hearing the bang, 15 divided by five (5) equals three (3); therefore, the lightning flash is approximately three (3) miles away.
10. Lightning awareness should be increased with the first flash of lightning or the first clap of thunder, no matter how far away. The most important aspect to monitor is how far away the lightning is occurring and how fast the storm is approaching, relative to the distance of a safe shelter.
11. At a minimum, by the time the monitor obtains a "flash-to-bang" count of **30 seconds** or the lightning detector indicates lightning within 8 miles, play will be suspended and, all individuals should leave the outdoor site and go to a safe structure or location.
12. When consideration is being given to resumption of all activities, a 30 minute waiting period after the last flash of lightning or sound of thunder is recommended before returning to the field/area or activity.



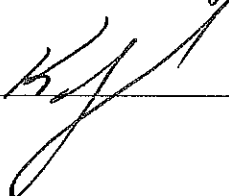
Program Division Chief



Athletic Division Chief



Assistant Recreation Director



Director