

PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE

LIGHTNING SAFETY PROCEDURES

PURPOSE:

In order to better protect the lives of those participating in outdoor activities sanctioned by Palm Beach State College, all faculty, staff, and students are required to immediately seek shelter in an appropriate location when a danger of lightning strike exists. This requirement extends to the faculty, staff and students of visiting athletic teams, clubs, or other organizations when engaged in practice, competition, or other outdoor activities at College facilities.

All others, who may be advised of warnings (i.e. spectators, visitors, etc.), are strongly encouraged to seek shelter in an appropriate location when a danger of lightning strike exists.

The existence of a lightning strike danger is confirmed by notification from the College's severe weather monitoring system; however, other weather monitoring systems, and visual observations may also be used to determine that a danger of lightning strike exists.

PROCEDURES:

Suspending Activities and Seeking Shelter

When the College's severe weather notification system (or other monitoring systems) indicates there is a lightning strike danger, seek shelter inside a nearby building or a fully enclosed metal vehicle. Do not seek shelter under towers, trees or tall objects that could attract a lightning strike. Once inside a vehicle do not touch any metal that could be part of the vehicle frame. If you are working with an outdoor group, suspend activities and guide your participants inside.

Note: The final authority for suspension/resumption of National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) activities is the NJCAA Official in charge of the activity. NJCAA Officials may suspend activities earlier or resume activities later than suggested by weather monitoring systems.

Resumption of Activities

Activities may resume after the College's severe weather monitoring system issues an "all clear" message, or a severe weather warning (tornado, severe thunderstorm) expires. In the event there is a problem with the College's severe weather monitoring system, activities may be resumed 30 minutes after the last incidence of lightning and thunder in the area, provided a severe weather warning is no longer in effect. Again, NJCAA Officials may delay resumption of activities at their discretion.

Responsibilities

Areas within the College have the responsibilities outlined in the following table. Questions about these procedures may be addressed to Safety & Risk Management at 561-868-4015. During an emergency call 911 and Campus Security. For non-emergency support call Campus Security.

TABLE OF RESPONSIBILITIES:

Area	Responsibilities
All Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify appropriate personnel to receive severe weather system notifications. • Determine the notifications to be received by those individuals by campus and type (lightning, tornado, heat index, etc.). • Provide contact and notification information to Safety & Risk Management.
Safety & Risk Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide, administer, and maintain a severe weather notification system for the College. • Train and assist College Units in the capabilities and use of the severe weather notification system. • Educate the College Community about the severe weather notification system and what to do when a threat of lightning exists. • Conduct periodic system tests as needed.
Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make VALCOM and/or Blackboard announcements to the appropriate campus(es) when warranted, (i.e. Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado warnings).
Athletics Trainers and Coaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear athletics fields and advise spectators and others to seek appropriate shelter. • Not allow activities to resume until the College’s severe weather notification system provides an “All Clear” message, or if there is a problem with the College’s severe weather monitoring system, ensure at least 30 minutes has passed since the last incidence of lightning and thunder in the area.
Student Activities (Men’s/Women’s Club Soccer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear recreational fields and advise spectators and others to seek appropriate shelter. • Not allow activities to resume until the College’s severe weather notification system provides an “All Clear” message, or if there is a problem with the College’s severe weather monitoring system, ensure at least 30 minutes has passed since the last incidence of lightning and thunder in the area.
Campus Intramurals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear recreational fields and advise spectators and others to seek appropriate shelter. • Not allow activities to resume until the College’s severe weather notification system provides an “All Clear” message, or if there is a problem with the College’s severe weather monitoring system, ensure at least 30 minutes has passed since the last incidence of lightning and thunder in the area.
Criminal Justice / Fire Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear skid pad, drill fields, and props of trainees, instructors, and other onlookers. • Not allow activities to resume until the College’s severe weather notification system provides an “All Clear” message, or if there is a problem with the College’s severe weather monitoring system, ensure at least 30 minutes has passed since the last incidence of lightning and thunder in the area.
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspend outside activities until the College’s severe weather notification system provides an “All Clear” message, or if there is a problem with the College’s severe weather monitoring system, ensure at least 30 minutes has passed since the last incidence of lightning and thunder in the area.