

City of Plymouth

Recreation Department



OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY WEATHER SAFETY POLICY

Adopted by City Commission on 6-2-14

THUNDERSTORM / LIGHTNING SAFETY POLICY

- ❑ *When lightning is seen or thunder heard all outdoor activities shall be suspended immediately.*
- ❑ All coaches, managers, participants, parents, staff and officials are to, where possible, find shelter in the nearest substantial building. If a substantial building is not available, it is advised to take shelter in a fully enclosed metal vehicle such as a car, truck or a van with the windows completely shut.
- ❑ All coaches, managers, participants, parents, staff and officials **are not** to take shelter in unsafe places which would include underneath canopies, small picnic or rain shelters, or near trees.
- ❑ *All activities shall be suspended for at least 30 minutes after the last observed lightning or thunder.*

Policy adopted as advised by the National Lightning Safety Institute.

TORNADO SAFETY POLICY

- ❑ *When the tornado warning siren is heard all outdoor activities shall be suspended immediately.*
- ❑ All coaches, managers, participants, parents, staff and officials are to, where possible; find shelter in the nearest substantial building. Listed below are the proper locations for shelter in substantial buildings:

Homes: The basement is the safest area. If you don't have a basement, go to the lowest floor in the house in a small room, like a closet or bathroom. Stay away from windows.

Community Centers or Shopping Centers: They will have a designated tornado shelter areas.

Office Buildings: Go to an interior hallway on the lowest floor.

Schools: Go to an interior hallway, stay away from auditoriums, gymnasiums, and other areas with wide, free-span roofs.

Mobile Homes: Evacuate the home! Go to the community shelter, if there is no shelter, leave the trailer and take cover on low, protected ground.

FOR AREAS WITH NO SUBSTANTIAL BUILDINGS : Lie flat in the nearest ditch or ravine.

All activities shall be suspended until an "All Clear" has been issued by the Plymouth Community Dispatch or the National Weather Service

Policy adopted as advised by the National Weather Service.

Heat Related Watches / Advisories / Warnings

This policy is to apply to all City Recreation Department outdoor athletic programs or activities with participants under the age of 18.

- ❑ **All youth outdoor athletic programs or activities shall be postponed or move to an inside area (if possible) when the following is declared by the National Weather Service at the time of the actual activity:**
 1. Excessive Heat Warning
- ❑ **All youth outdoor athletic programs or activities shall be continued if the following is declared by the National Weather Service at the time of the actual activity.**
 1. Excessive Heat Watches
 2. Excessive Heat Advisories

Heat Related Watches / Advisories and Watches as defined by the National Weather Service

Excessive Heat Watches: are issued when conditions are favorable for an excessive heat event in the next 12 to 48 hours.

A Watch is used when the risk of a heat wave has increased, but its occurrence and timing is still uncertain. A Watch provides enough lead time so those who need to prepare can do so, such as cities who have excessive heat event mitigation plans.

Excessive Heat Warnings/Advisories: are issued when an excessive heat event is expected in the next 36 hours. These products are issued when an excessive heat event is occurring, is imminent, or has a very high probability of occurring.

The warning is used for conditions posing a threat to life or property. An advisory is for less serious conditions that cause significant discomfort or inconvenience and, if caution is not taken, could lead to a threat to life and/or property.

Adult Athletic Activities

At this time, all City Recreation Department adult outdoor athletic programs take place after 6:00pm and games are not scheduled to last longer than 75 minutes.

Since OSHA cannot give an exact definition of what is safe for adults during "excessive heat" daytime work conditions, each adult athletic event will be assessed on a case by case basis.