Spring Branch Independent School District

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SBISD LIGHTNING POLICY

1. **Weather Alert**—A weather alert will be issued for the outdoor activity/natatorium if there is a high probability of inclement weather or lightning. When a weather alert occurs, a designated person should be put in charge of monitoring the weather. This may be an athletic director, athletic trainer, or head coach of a sport. This person should use the following monitoring tools:
    a. Thor Guard
    b. Current weather radar from internet or Weather Sentry
    c. TV radar and forecasts
    d. Weather radio
    e. Eyes and ears

2. **Thor Guard**—The Thor Guard lightning prediction and warning system continuously monitors the atmosphere's electrostatic energy and evaluates the potential for lightning. The system is designed to give 8-15 minutes of advance warning of imminent lightning activity. When the system reaches a preset level of red alert, the horn system automatically activates one-15 second blast of the horn. The horn system automatically activates three 5-second blasts of the horn as conditions improve. This is referred to as an "all clear" signal.

    Thor Guard is currently located at Tully and Grob Stadiums, the stadiums located at Memorial, Northbrook, Spring Woods and Stratford High Schools, and the W.W. Emmons Natatorium.

3. **Lightning Safety Plan**— Lightning can strike from up to 8 miles away, so any storm within an 8-mile range presents a risk to anyone engaged in an outdoor activity/swimming at the natatorium. The lightning safety plan will go into effect when the potential of dangerous lightning occurs within 8 miles of the venue and the following steps are to take place:
    a. **Suspend** all outdoor activity/swimming at the natatorium.
    b. **Evacuate** all outdoor persons to a safe structure. Examples of a safe shelter are automobile, bus, dressing room, or other building. A dugout or awning are not considered safe shelter.
    c. **Monitor** inclement weather.
    d. **Resume activity** – After an "all clear" signal, the game administrator will continue to monitor the weather and determine when it is safe to resume outside activity/swimming at the natatorium.

4. **Venues where Thor Guard is Installed -** The Thor Guard system will be followed when the horn system automatically activates. All persons should evacuate to a safe structure. Administrators should evacuate spectators from the stadium or field. Spectators should take shelter in their vehicles. Spectators without a vehicle should move to shelter designated by the game administrator. After an "all clear" signal, the game administrator will continue to monitor the weather and determine when it is safe to resume outside activity/swimming at the natatorium.

5. **Venues without Thor Guard -** When a lightning strike is observed, all persons should evacuate to a safe structure. Administrators should evacuate spectators from the stadium or field. Spectators should take shelter in their vehicles. Spectators without a vehicle should move to shelter designated by the game administrator. The game administrator will continue to monitor the weather and determine when it is safe to resume outside activity.