

Beverly Hills Athletic Department Lightning Safety Policy

Lightning and thunderstorms are significant recurring weather events that are part of the necessary safety plan in all of outdoor athletics. Every year approximately 40 people in the United States are struck and killed by lightning with ten times as many in non fatal injuries according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Education and prevention planning are the keys to safety in athletics related to thunder and lightning. Both the NCAA Health and Safety Committee and the National Athletic Trainers Association Consensus Statement agree that a well written and practiced emergency plan for lightning safety is critical to the athletic department staff and student safety.

The following items shall be practiced and instituted for the safety of the Beverly Hills High School athletic department staff, student participants and fans.

1. Designation of a BHHS staff member to monitor the threatening weather advisories daily via news, websites, up to the minute weather apps and other monitoring devices on campus or at playing fields. This designee shall communicate with staff regularly about storm warning and any time that practice or games should be stopped for safety.
2. Upon the first sound of thunder, the lightning is within 10 miles and capable of striking within minutes. The BHHS designee who is monitoring weather- shall notify the chain of command about stopping the event/ practice and removing all students, officials and fans to a safe location.
3. Upon seeing the first flash of lightning, the storm is within a 5 mile radius and now the mandate to evacuate must be put into place. Signage around all outdoor venues should clearly state the nearest location of safety for shelter during a lightning storm.
(Nickoll Field participants and fans should quickly evacuate to the Konheim building, inside, Tennis courts should evacuate to the Swim Gym, and those at La Cienega Park should evacuate to the community center building, those at Rancho Park should evacuate to community center)
4. If possible at the outdoor locations, the loud speaker system should be utilized to give verbal instructions to the fans and those in attendance about how to evacuate to the nearest safe structure.
5. Activity can resume once the lightning and thunder has ceased for 30 minutes continuously.
6. Emergency care protocols should be immediately put into action for anyone who has been struck by lightning- beginning with calling 911 and moving the victim to a safer location before starting CPR or AED use.

Designee for monitoring: Athletic Trainer and Site Athletic Directors

Chain of Command: Athletic Trainer - Site Athletic Director - Site Principal or Assistant Principal-- District Athletic Administrator

Safe buildings during the storm: Konheim, Swim Gym, Upper weight room, LaCienega Park Community Center, Rancho Park Community Center and Roxbury Park Community Center.

Needed Signage: Posted evacuation signs at Nickoll field and stadium seating, Baseball and softball seating and dugouts, Tennis courts and upper outdoor basketball courts

References:

2013 NCAA Health and Safety Committee "Guidelines for Lightning Safety" Page 19/20

2013 National Athletic Trainers' Association "Position Statement on Lightning Safety for Athletics and Recreation"

National Weather Service & NOAA "Lightning Safety and Outdoor Sports Activities"

2019 CDC Website "When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors"