



WARREN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

WEATHER POLICY

LIGHTNING POLICY: (affecting all outdoor events scheduled with the WCPRD)

1. If lightning is seen and thunder is heard within thirty (30) seconds of the lightning being seen, all outdoor events shall be postponed for a minimum of thirty (30) minutes. This means that park staff will politely and professionally notify all patrons and participants that they must leave the park facilities and after thirty (30) minutes, the situation will be reassessed. If lightning or severe weather is still persistent, the event or function may still be postponed or canceled.
2. Some regional parks are equipped with Thor Guard lightning detection devices. These devices are equipped to detect lightning at various ranges. Our park system's inner perimeter is set at 2.5 miles; mid-range is set at 5 miles, and the outer perimeter is 10 miles. If lightning is detected in any of these ranges, all individuals using WCPRD properties must follow the audible warnings that the lightning sirens give off, per the Thor Guard public emergency policy. During periods in which lightning and thunder are present, all individuals using outdoor facilities should seek shelter in vehicles or other secure buildings. Patrons will not be allowed to remain in athletic complex areas, dugouts, bleachers, playgrounds, or open spaces around fields.

SEVERE WIND, RAIN, HAIL:

- During severe weather events, WCPRD staff should monitor the weather for updates/reports by following local media or using weather radios, and standby for Department updates/reports via phone or WCPRD portable handheld radio units, if available.
- After severe weather events, all facilities and parks should be checked for damage per the **Form 189 - Post-Storm Park/Facility Checklist**.
- Advise patrons and employees to stay inside if heavy hail is occurring.
- Notify power company of any down utility lines.

CANCELLATIONS/POSTPONEMENTS: WCPRD reserves the right to cancel, alter, postpone, and/or change any and all programs, functions, games, practices, rentals, special events, and tournaments if weather conditions present a hazard to the general public. The following events could cause events to be canceled or postponed:

- Severe Thunderstorm Warning
- Tornado Watch / Tornado Warning**
- Special Weather Statements
- Winter Weather Advisory
- Snow Advisory
- WCPRD parking lots, walkways, entrance and exit points areas are covered in snow or ice.
- WC Public School parking lots, walkways, entrance and exit areas are covered in snow or ice.
- Local roadway conditions present potential hazards to WCPRD patrons and if local media and emergency services are encouraging people not to travel due to poor weather conditions.
- WCPRD is unable to open and staff a facility due to severe winter weather making road conditions poor and travel hazardous for staff to go to work.
- If the Judge Executive of Warren County closes all non-essential offices due to severe winter weather, WCPRD will attempt to clear all park areas of snow and ice as quickly and safely as possible per the resources it has available.
- Winter Weather Watch
- Winter Storm Watch / Warning
- Ice Storm Watch or Warning
- Flood Warning

SUSPENSION OF EMPLOYEE WORK DUTIES: Employees should not be working outside on ball fields or other exposed areas when lightning is immediately present, within 10-15 miles of their location. Staff should be sent indoors and assigned alternate work duties until outdoor conditions improve. All mowing, trimming, and ball field work will be suspended when lightning is visible and immediately present. Patron and employee safety is paramount to safe operations.

****WCPRD STORM SHELTERS are staffed whenever a Tornado Watch or Warning is issued by the National Weather Service or local EMA.**