



KSHSAA GUIDELINES FOR LIGHTNING SAFETY

1. **WHEN THUNDER IS HEARD OR CLOUD-TO-GROUND LIGHTNING IS SEEN, THE LEADING EDGE OF THE THUNDERSTORM IS CLOSE ENOUGH TO POSE A LIGHTNING RISK. SUSPEND PLAY AND TAKE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY.**
2. ONCE PLAY HAS BEEN SUSPENDED, WAIT AT LEAST 30 MINUTES FROM THE LAST SOUND OF THUNDER OR LIGHTNING STRIKE WITNESSED BEFORE RESUMING THE ACTIVITY.
3. ANY SUBSEQUENT THUNDER OR LIGHTNING STRIKE DURING THE 30 MINUTE WAITING PERIOD RESETS THE CLOCK, AND A NEW 30 MINUTE WAITING PERIOD BEGINS.

ANYTIME LIGHTNING CAN BE SEEN OR THUNDER HEARD, RISK IS PRESENT!

At night, under certain atmospheric conditions, lightning flashes may be seen from distant storms. In these cases, it may be safe to continue an event. If no thunder can be heard and the flashes are low on the horizon, the storm may not pose a threat. Independently verified lightning detection information would help eliminate any uncertainty.

SCHOOL CONSIDERATIONS:

1. A documented plan for handling severe weather situations such as lightning should be in place.
2. The persons responsible for monitoring weather activity and determining when to suspend practice or competition should be identified. Ideally this person will **NOT** be a coach or an official involved in the game or practice, as they may be too involved with their other duties to monitor the weather.
3. There are many different methods of monitoring the weather. The internet and mobile device weather applications are one option. Weather radios are available through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Weather Service. The Weather Channel can also provide good information on storm movement and strength. Each school will need to determine their most effective means of monitoring the weather. **No matter how weather is monitored, hearing thunder or seeing lightning should always take precedence in decision making over information obtained from other sources.**

National Weather Service contact information, areas of coverage, and weather radio frequencies are provided on the back of this document.

4. All personnel, athletes, and spectators should be clearly informed in advance of available safe structures or shelters in the event of severe weather.
5. The most ideal safe structure is a fully enclosed building with plumbing, electrical wiring, and telephone service which all aid in grounding the structure.
6. Fully enclosed automobiles with metal roofs, including school buses, provide adequate shelter as well.
7. Avoid using bathrooms or showers as shelter areas as the plumbing pipelines provide a path for the lightning to enter the structure. Also avoid using corded telephones or headsets during a thunderstorm, and avoid standing near utilities.
8. If communication is necessary during the storm, cellular and cordless phones are considered reasonably safe.

National Federation of State High School Associations. NFHS Guidelines on Handling Practices and Contests During Lightning and Thunder Disturbances. www.nfhs.org/SportsMed.aspx.

**SEVERE WEATHER CONTACT INFORMATION
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
GENERAL REGIONS OF COVERAGE**

HASTINGS, NE



SPRINGFIELD, MO

REGION

Goodland
Hastings, NE
Dodge City
Kansas City, MO
Springfield, MO
Topeka
Wichita

PHONE

785.899.7119
402.462.4287
620.227.3311
816.540.6021
417.869.4491
785.234.2592
316.942.3102

WEBSITE

www.crh.noaa.gov/gld
www.crh.noaa.gov/gid
www.crh.noaa.gov/ddc
www.crh.noaa.gov/eax
www.crh.noaa.gov/sgf
www.crh.noaa.gov/top
www.crh.noaa.gov/ict

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
WEATHER RADIO FREQUENCIES**

NWR TRANSMITTER	FREQ.	CALL SIGN	NWR TRANSMITTER	FREQ.	CALL SIGN
Abilene	162.525	WXL71	Joplin, MO	162.425	WXJ61
Bartlesville, OK	162.425	WNG644	Kansas City, MO	162.550	KID77
Beaumont	162.500	WWH22	Kirwin	162.500	KWN59
Belvidere	162.525	WNG534	Lenora	162.425	WWF87
Blue Rapids	162.425	KZZ67	Meade	162.425	WNG555
Cambridge, NE	162.525	KEC39	Neosho, MO	162.450	KJY82
Chanute	162.400	WXK95	Parker	162.525	WZ2512
Concordia	162.550	WXK94	Ponca City, OK	162.450	WWF42
Dighton	162.525	WNG535	Saint Joseph, MO	162.400	KEC77
Dodge City	162.475	WXK93	Sharon	162.400	WZ2511
El Dorado Springs, MO	162.475	KZZ30	Shubert, NE	162.500	KWN41
Ellsworth	162.400	WXK92	Topeka	162.475	WXK91
Gem	162.400	WXK96	Tribune	162.550	WWG22
Great Bend	162.500	KPS511	Ulysses	162.450	WXN81
Halls Summit	162.425	KGG98	Wichita	162.550	KEC59
Hays	162.450	WXM35	Wray, CO	162.475	WXM87