



Geneva Park District Lightning Policy

In most instances, people injured by lightning are not directly hit. These non-direct hit injuries are caused by transients, currents that flow through people in the vicinity of lightning strikes to the ground. Lightning strikes occur most frequently during the spring and summer months when thunderstorms are prevalent. It is the policy of the Geneva Park District that all persons supervising outdoor activities are aware that when lightning or thunder is observed or heard, outdoor programs should be suspended and everyone should seek appropriate shelter. Supervisors should adhere to the following procedures and guidelines:

1. Outdoor Program:

- Instructors and supervisors should listen to current weather forecasts the morning of any outdoor planned activities so that employees can be alert to changing weather conditions.
- Monitor weather conditions as they appear on the horizon.
- Monitor weather radios when possible.
- Designate buildings that can be used when severe weather occurs.
- Plan alternative indoor activities for camps and related programs.
- Whenever lightning is observed or thunder is audible, all outdoor activities should be suspended for a minimum of 30 minutes after the last sign of lightning or thunder is noted.

2. When Outside:

- Avoid areas that are higher than the surrounding landscape.
- Do not use a tree for shelter.
- Keep away from metal objects, including bicycles, golf carts, umbrellas, etc.
- Avoid standing near tall or metal objects such as fences, light poles, or power lines.
- Boaters and swimmers should immediately leave the water and find shelter.
- If you feel your skin tingle or your hair stand on end, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands on your knees with your head between them. Make yourself as small as possible target and minimize your contact with the ground.

3. When Indoors:

- When indoors, stand clear from doors and windows.
- Do not use electrical equipment, including hair dryers, curling irons, computers, etc.
- Do not attempt to unplug TVs, stereos, or computers during a storm.
- Avoid contact with sinks, faucets, and related piping.
- Do not use the telephone unless for emergency use.