



LIGHTNING SAFETY POLICY

Rand Park High School is committed to the safety of its learners and staff, as well as to any visitor to our campus. This policy endeavours to provide accurate information regarding lightning danger to enable you to take shelter.

SYSTEM

1. Rand Park High School has installed two sirens that are connected to the Blitz-Detect lightning detection system.
2. The units are located in the School Pavilion and the Swimming Pool area and the detection system is operational between 06h00 and 19h30 from Monday to Sunday.
3. The system warns of grounded lightning activity within a 12km radius of the School.
4. To alert people to lightning danger, the alarm sounds an air horn siren for 30 seconds. The RED strobe light (located on the School Pavilion and the Swimming Pool deck) will illuminate.
5. The system uses algorithms to determine when it is safe to resume activity.
6. The 'all-clear' is signalled by two short air horn siren blasts once the lightning danger has passed, following which the strobe light will switch off. This signals that it is safe to resume activity.
7. The system is automated. In the event of system failure, the Campus Manager has been trained to access the manual triggering button to sound the alarm, activate the strobe light and sound the all-clear siren.
8. The siren is tested routinely on a weekly basis by the Campus Manager to ensure that it is in good working order. In the event of a system failure, staff, coaches, learners and parents/visitors to the campus must apply common sense and seek shelter if lightning and thunder is present in the vicinity.

PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW

9. As soon as the lightning detection system activates, it is an indication of imminent danger and everyone **MUST** remove themselves from their outdoor activity and seek shelter inside the available buildings, classrooms, closed corridors and vehicles. Shade ports and canopies are not safe shelters.
10. During school hours, the following will apply if the lightning detection system activates:

- a. Learners and educators will not be permitted to leave the classroom for break. Educators and staff will remain indoors until the all-clear has been given.
 - b. If the lightning detection system activates during break, learners and educators must proceed promptly to the classroom in which their next lesson will be held. If that is not practical, learners must proceed to the nearest safe sheltered area and await further instruction.
11. The tuckshop will close immediately and remain closed until such time that outside activities are allowed to resume.
 12. The red strobe light will remain illuminated for the duration of the activated warning system. All outdoor areas must remain cleared until the all-clear has been given.
 13. When the siren sounds again and the flashing light goes off, it is then permissible to resume outdoor activities.
 14. Under NO circumstances is anyone allowed back on the field, swimming pool area or outdoors prior to the lightning detection system disabling itself.
 15. Members of the public using the facilities, fields and/or swimming pool on an individual or organised basis are also subject to the same policy. Warning signage has been erected in key locations around the school's campus and at the entrance to the property.
 16. Any competitive game that is temporarily stopped due to the threat of lightning shall be considered a game suspended due to poor weather. Decisions to postpone or call off games will be decided upon in conjunction with the rules of the applicable game.
 17. The School's generator – located onsite – must be avoided when lightning is present in the vicinity.
 18. Staff who work after-hours and who live on the School's campus will be informed of the Blitz-Detect lightning system's operating hours. They will be required to observe the General Safety Guidelines applicable when lightning is present in the vicinity and to remain indoors.

GENERAL SAFETY GUIDELINES

19. If thunder and a storm approaches and the lightning detection system has not yet activated, it is recommended that you use this leeway time to organise your group to safety.
20. Avoid all shade cloth structures, open areas, metal shelters, canopies and cell phones.
21. Learners must avoid seeking cover under the bus shelters outside the School's campus while waiting for their transport or collection by parents/guardians. They must wait in the sheltered areas, on campus, until the all-clear siren has been given.
22. Do not wait to be told to take shelter when the siren sounds – take shelter immediately.
23. Do not touch anything that conducts electricity, such as steel structures, corded phones, wiring, plumbing, and anything connected to these.

24. Do not lie down (the more of you that is in contact with the ground, the more 'attractive' you are to lightning) but avoid being the highest object.
25. Remove metal objects from your head/body.
26. If your hair stands on end or you hear a buzzing noise coming from nearby rocks, fences etc., you must move away immediately. At night, a blue glow may show if an object is about to be struck.
27. Keep out of and well away from the swimming pool, other bodies of water, drains or watercourses.
28. Never find shelter under tree/s.
29. If applicable and practical, staff and learners must disconnect personal electronic devices from power circuits.
30. Surge protection is installed in the computer laboratories, media centre, CCTV surveillance room, and the IT server room to provide a level of protection from indirect lightning strikes. However, it is noted that direct lightning strikes can overwhelm surge protectors. As such, the school's short-term insurance policy provides cover for damage caused due to lightning events.

COMMUNICATION

31. Where possible, parents and staff will be notified in advance, via the d6 School Communicator, if the School decides to cancel an activity before a practice/game/event begins.
32. Learners will be notified by the Coach on the WhatsApp team group if training or games are cancelled due to weather conditions.

This policy must be read together with a document entitled "Lightning Detection at the Randburg Astro" which applies to hockey games and training that are held off-campus at that venue.

While the School has taken these measures to minimise the risk of lightning damage or injury, no guarantees against injury or damage can be given or that the lightning detection device or any service related to it will be in working order at all times. Accordingly, the School will carry no liability whatsoever should any person be injured or property be damaged due to a lightning strike on the School's premises.

Issued:
22 October 2024
RAND PARK HIGH SCHOOL

PTO for information regarding lightning detection at the Randburg Astro



LIGHTNING DETECTION AT THE RANDBURG ASTRO

Introduction

- Coaches, staff and educators involved in outdoor extra-mural activities are urged to use the Linetview link (supplied by Blitz-Detect) to track lightning and to receive alerts regarding lightning in the vicinity.
- If thunder is heard 30 seconds after lightning, the storm is approximately 10km from your location. Lightning safety experts consider this a **strike danger zone**.
- Activities shall remain suspended for **30 minutes after** the last thunder is heard or until the senior coach/educator/staff member deems it safe to return to the field based on information provided by Linetview.

Astro Turf Procedure

- When the area is deemed a strike danger zone, players, coaches etc. will evacuate the astro turf and congregate inside the thatched lapa or in the available School vehicle.
- When the coach/educator/staff member deems it safe, play will continue or be postponed.

If Shelter is Not Available

- Crouch preferably in a hollow and make yourself a small target, with knees drawn up and feet together, preferably on dry insulating material (e.g. foam mat).
- Do not lie down (the more of you that is in contact with the ground, the more 'attractive' you are to lightning) but avoid being the highest object.
- Remove metal objects from head/body.
- If your hair stands on end or you hear a buzzing noise coming from nearby rocks, fences etc., you must move away immediately. At night, a blue glow may show if an object is about to be struck.
- Keep out of and well away from bodies of water, drains or watercourses.
- Keep your hands off the ground.
- Spread members of the group out – about ten metres apart, but within calling distance.
- Never find shelter under tree/s.

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22 October 2024

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