

University Football Stadium Lightning Safety Plan

Weather is monitored during all football games and events at the command post located on the upper level of the press box at the stadium. The command post has representatives from strategic university departments including athletics, police, news and public affairs, event medicine, facility operations, and environmental health and safety. On active days, we begin monitoring 3 hours before each event and 1 hour after.

We use commercial vendors to monitor weather, provide advisories and warnings, and real-time lightning information.

Stadium Lightning Plan

Campus police, metro police officers, and ushers may be pre-positioned when a 30-minute advisory is received so that if a decision is made to relocate they will be properly stationed before the Public Address announcement is made. This script may be amended based on actual circumstances. The Command Post will ensure that the Public Address announcer receives the proper script. The relocation announcement will be repeated as necessary to ensure that all stadium attendees are informed of what to do.

When lightning is detected within **(15) miles** of the stadium:

- Game management will notify the head referee.
- The Command Post will communicate via radio with campus police and all other Police officers and inform them of any possible relocation plan details. Campus police and Game Management staff will ensure that access is provided to the lightning relocation points.
- Police officers will be stationed to direct the crowd to the proper lightning relocation points.
- The ushers will be informed of the lightning relocation points, and will be positioned to assist in directing the crowd. The ushers will assist any persons needing assistance (such as disabled persons).

When lightning is detected within **(12) miles** of the stadium:

- A public address announcement will be made to inform those in attendance that the inclement weather including lightning is within (12) miles of the stadium and if patrons wish to vacate for safe shelter, they will be allowed to re-enter with a ticket stub.
- Radio game broadcast will announce that lightning is within (12) miles and that patrons are being allowed to vacate the facility for safe shelter, and they will be allowed to re-enter with a ticket stub.

When lightning is detected with six **(6) miles** of the stadium:

- The competition/event shall be suspended. In addition to these internal announcements.
- All patrons will evacuate the inner bowl area to a safe relocation area.
- All athletes, referees, coaches, and other field personnel for the home and visiting team, will be evacuated to the stadium locker rooms for all severe weather emergency evacuations. All band members will be evacuated to the gymnasium.
- All patrons in the Bridge area will relocate to a safe area.

For lightning storms, the following evacuation points listed in order of preference will be utilized:

1. Concourse.
 2. Basement areas under east side and west side stadium bleachers.
 3. Gymnasium (approximate 20,000-person capacity)
- Radio game broadcast will announce that the gates will be closed to incoming fans.
 - Ushers will move to their designated place of shelter.
 - Announcements may be made in proximity to the stadium using PAs or the lightning warning feature activated from the siren system console in campus dispatch
 - Patrol vehicles will be assigned to officers staffing street closure points so they can safely remain on post.
 - Persons exiting the garages or lots will be advised that a lighting advisory is in effect and they should return to their cars or other shelter until the threat has passed
 - The Athletic Marketing Department will provide announcements that a lighting advisory is in effect and fans should return to their cars or other shelter until the threat has passed.

Resuming Normal Operations

Competition or an event may be resumed after 30 minutes of no detected lightning strikes with a six mile radius. These 30 minutes includes a 10 minute warm-up period for a football game.

In cases of severe weather being detected prior to the start of competition:

A maximum of 10 minutes could be used for the marching band, national anthem and introductions, immediately following the 30-minute period of NO detected lightning strikes. The home institution would have the option of whether or not the 10 minute period is added.