



Making our World Safer

Lightning is the #2 storm killer in the U.S., killing more than hurricanes or tornadoes on average. But the real story of lightning isn't the deaths, it's the injuries. Only about 10% of those struck are killed; 90% survive. But of the survivors, many suffer life-long severe injury and disability.

While lightning safety can be inconvenient, consider how inconvenient the alternative of not following these simple rules could be! Adults are ALWAYS responsible for the safety of children under their care; this includes lightning safety.

Remember: ***No Place Outside is Safe During Thunderstorms!***

Even though no lightning safety guidelines will give 100% guaranteed total safety, the following steps will help keep you safe while at soccer events.

Tournament Staff Use the following tools in determining when it is time to halt tournament play.

- Lightning Detection - The SkyScan lightning detector is a high technology weather monitoring product. We are at immediate risk any time there is detected lightning activity within 9 miles of our location.
- 30/30 Rule - When lightning is seen, we count the time until we hear thunder. If this time is 30 seconds or less, you will be asked to seek proper shelter. If we can't see the lightning, just hearing the thunder is a good back-up rule.
- If a developing storm is nearby, we may stop play even before the first lightning flash.

When play is stopped, Field Marshals and/or Event Officials will alert all referees, coaches and players to seek proper shelter.

- **Don't hesitate, seek shelter immediately.** The lightning casualty stories are replete with events where people were about to make it to shelter when they were struck. If they'd just started a minute earlier, they'd have been safe.
- A vehicle with a solid metal roof and metal sides is a reasonable choice of shelter. Tents, canopies, convertibles, cars with fiberglass or plastic shells, and open framed vehicles don't count as lightning shelters.

Tournament staff **will wait 30 minutes or more** after hearing the last thunder before resuming tournament play.

- Do not leave your vehicle until you are directed to do so by Event Officials. The Event Officials will come to the parking areas with golf carts to pass the word when play will be resuming.
- Under no circumstances should you return to the fields until you are given direction from the Event Officials.

For more information on the National Safety Council please visit us at www.nsc.org