

Severe Weather Policy

(Revised May 23, 2019)

Important Note: At no point should the following Severe Weather Policy be perceived or construed as a substitute for parental discretion or responsibility or discretion or responsibility of private leagues. A range of factors make the situation for each participating family unique including, but not limited to: ability to handle severe heat, comfort in handling various weather conditions, comfort in leaving and driving in various weather conditions, distance needed to travel to or from participants' home, etc. The purpose of this policy is instead to create a minimum standard for handling severe weather conditions at Moberly Parks and Recreation facilities.

1. **Monitor:** In case of bad weather or the forecast of bad weather, facility staff should:
 - a. Designate one person to monitor all available weather alerts, radios, radar, and other sources.
 - b. All staff should visually check for lightning, listen for thunder, and watch for other threats.
2. **Notify:** Notify the facility manager, staff, and patrons that storms are approaching whenever:
 - a. Lightning is detected within plain view of the facility or by radar on a reliable weather site or app.
 - b. A severe thunderstorm watch is issued for the facility or storms are detected within 20 miles.
 - c. A tornado watch is issued for the facility.
 - i. The facility manager or designee may consider evacuating patrons at this point if there is a lack of adequate shelter space and/or if it looks like the weather may escalate quickly. Anyone remaining on-site should use shelter procedures.
3. **Lightning:** When lightning is detected within plain view of the facility or by radar *or if thunder is heard*, immediately:
 - a. Notify the facility manager and all staff.
 - b. Suspend all outdoor activities.
 - c. Advise all patrons and staff to move to shelter locations (in an enclosed vehicle or under shelter at the discretion of patrons – *we cannot force them into a building or to remain on site, but they must leave all open/exposed areas*).
 - d. Once lightning is detected within plain view of the facility, all outdoor activities must be suspended for no less than 30 minutes from the *latest* lightning strike (visual or hearing thunder).
 - e. Once 30 minutes have passed without lightning or thunder, proceed to steps 6-7.
4. **Severe Thunderstorms (winds of 58 mph or more, lightning, and/or potential hail):** If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued or a severe thunder storm is identified within 20 miles of the facility:
 - a. Notify the facility manager and all staff.
 - b. Suspend all outdoor activities.
 - c. Advise all patrons and staff to *immediately* move to shelter locations (indoors such as restrooms or in an enclosed vehicle).
5. **Tornadoes:** If a tornado warning is issued for the facility and/or a tornado has been identified:
 - a. Notify the facility manager and all staff.
 - b. Suspend all outdoor activities.

- c. Advise all patrons and staff to *immediately* move to shelter locations (*unless they voluntarily choose to leave the facility altogether*):
 - i. Restroom Facilities
 - ii. We cannot force patrons to stay on site. If they wish to leave the facility, they may be allowed to do so at their own risk.
- 6. **All Clear:** If the “all clear” is given, the facility manager should:
 - a. Survey the site for damage and work with Facility Management to arrange for repairs and restrict areas where damage may pose a danger to the public.
 - b. Resume activities as appropriate based on facility and field conditions.
 - c. Communicate with all event/tournament organizers on the status of the facility.
- 7. **Storms Continue:** If the storms continue, the facility manager should:
 - a. Work with Parks staff/Facility Management to assess field playing conditions as appropriate.
 - b. Determine if activities should be cancelled due to continuing weather.
 - c. Communicate with all event/tournament organizers on the status of the facility.

Example Notifications

<i>Initial Notification</i>	“Your attention please, your attention please. Due to lightning in the area we ask that everyone please exit the facility and go their vehicles. We will be on a 30 minute delay on a clock that resets every time lightening is detected. We ask that you please clear the facility now. When we are set to resume we will make the announcement. If we will not resume due to continuing weather, we will make the announcement. Thank you for your cooperation.”
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Acceptable Shelter Locations

- A. *Lightning and Thunderstorms*
 - a. Buildings with four walls in a room or area away from windows such as restrooms.
 - b. Closed, hard-top vehicles.
- B. *Tornadoes*
 - a. Buildings with four walls in a room or area away from windows such as restrooms.

Unacceptable Shelter Locations

- A. Picnic shelters, dugouts, and all other structures without *four* (or more) enclosed walls.
- B. Garages or similar buildings with large doors that are *open* during the storm; these facilities are acceptable only if all doors are *closed*.
- C. Under or near trees, open spaces, fences, light poles, or any other tall structure.

Additional Considerations for Evacuation Time

Some facilities may require additional time for evacuation once severe weather has been identified in the area. This additional time may be necessary due to the size of the facility, the number of patrons, or the nature of the activity. The following factors should be considered when calculating necessary warning and evacuation times or distances:

- A. Distance from the farthest point at the facility to acceptable shelter.
- B. Amount of time required to notify all patrons and staff at the facility.

C. Number of patrons and staff on site and nature of activity (e.g. free swim, softball tournament, etc). To account for these factors, facility supervisors should consider adding additional time to the minimum distances listed in the policy to ensure that there is sufficient time for the last person notified at the point furthest from shelter to reach a safe location.

8. Suggested Heat Index

Moberly Parks and Recreation uses the following heat index policy as a guide for all of our outdoor practices/games. It is up to private leagues and coaches to observe and institute these policies. This policy is separate from any other weather (rain, lightning, etc.) that may also occur. Heat index for each game or practice will be determined 1-2 hours before the scheduled start time. Moberly Parks and Recreation provides water at designated fountains for free and also bottled water at the concession stands for sale, though the Department permits coaches to bring water containers (no other outside drinks).

Parents/guardians are expected to know their child better than the coach. Parents/guardians are responsible for communicating with the coach about their child's susceptibility to heat related illness, and to take other precautions that the parents/guardians believe are appropriate if they believe that weather or heat conditions place their child at risk of heat related illness or other danger, including withholding their child from participation.

HEAT INDEX	RECOMMENDATIONS
80-88 DEGREES	Few Concerns; Activities will remain on.
89-94 DEGREES	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide ample amounts of water (water should always be available). <input type="checkbox"/> Optional water breaks every 30 minutes up to 5 minutes in duration. <input type="checkbox"/> Watch/Monitor athletes carefully.
95-99 DEGREES	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide ample amounts of water (water is always available). <input type="checkbox"/> Athletes are allowed to take in as much water as desired. <input type="checkbox"/> Recommended water breaks every 30 minutes for 5-10 minutes in duration. <input type="checkbox"/> All equipment must be removed during these water breaks (helmets, gloves & catcher's equipment). <input type="checkbox"/> Recommend catchers only be allowed to catch 2 consecutive innings. <input type="checkbox"/> Watch/Monitor athletes closely.
100-104 DEGREES	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide ample amounts of water (water is always available). <input type="checkbox"/> Athletes are allowed to take in as much water as desired. <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory water breaks every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration (shade recommended during). <input type="checkbox"/> All equipment must be removed during these water breaks (helmets, gloves & catcher's equipment). <input type="checkbox"/> Recommend catchers only be allowed to catch 1-2 consecutive innings. <input type="checkbox"/> Game or practice time can be shortened by 15-30 minutes by team's so desire. <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor athletes and actions closely.

HEAT-RELATED ILLNESSES

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

WHAT TO DO

HEAT STROKE

- High body temperature (103°F or higher)
 - Hot, red, dry, or damp skin
 - Fast, strong pulse
 - Headache
 - Dizziness
 - Nausea
 - Confusion
 - Losing consciousness (passing out)
- Call 911 right away-heat stroke is a medical emergency
 - Move the person to a cooler place
 - Help lower the person's temperature with cool cloths or a cool bath
 - Do not give the person anything to drink

HEAT EXHAUSTION

- Heavy sweating
 - Cold, pale, and clammy skin
 - Fast, weak pulse
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Muscle cramps
 - Tiredness or weakness
 - Dizziness
 - Headache
 - Fainting (passing out)
- Move to a cool place
 - Loosen your clothes
 - Put cool, wet cloths on your body or take a cool bath
 - Sip water
- Get medical help right away if:**
- You are throwing up
 - Your symptoms get worse
 - Your symptoms last longer than 1 hour

HEAT CRAMPS

- Heavy sweating during intense exercise
 - Muscle pain or spasms
- Stop physical activity and move to a cool place
 - Drink water or a sports drink
 - Wait for cramps to go away before you do any more physical activity
- Get medical help right away if:**
- Cramps last longer than 1 hour
 - You're on a low-sodium diet
 - You have heart problems

SUNBURN

- Painful, red, and warm skin
 - Blisters on the skin
- Stay out of the sun until your sunburn heals
 - Put cool cloths on sunburned areas or take a cool bath
 - Put moisturizing lotion on sunburned areas
 - Do not break blisters

HEAT RASH

- Red clusters of small blisters that look like pimples on the skin (usually on the neck, chest, groin, or in elbow creases)
- Stay in a cool, dry place
 - Keep the rash dry
 - Use powder (like baby powder) to soothe the rash

