Lightning Guidelines

Weather conditions need to be monitored closely in an approaching storm. As a general
rule, if one can hear thunder or see lightning, all outdoor activities need to be moved
indoors or cancelled.

Prevention and education are the keys to lightning safety. The athletic trainer, head
coach and/or administrator using the following methods will monitor weather
conditions.

- PERRY WEATHER, is a modern weather safety lightning alert system that will send
out text messages and push notifications when lightning is approaching. It will
send a caution text message when lightning is detected with 20 miles. When
lightning is within 10 miles, Perry Weather will text message to stop events and
seek shelter. Perry Weather is the official app used at Hardin and Farris
complexes.

- WEATHERBUG via smartphones. This has a component called Spark which also
tracks lightning based on the location of the user. Schools can use WEATHERBUG
to track movement of approaching storms through its radar system.

- FLASH TO BANG method to monitor lightning for evacuation of the playing field
for a safer environment when other indicators are not available. With the “Flash
to bang” method the seconds are counted from the time a flash of lightning is
seen until a clap of thunder is heard. When this number is 30 seconds or less,
evacuation of the field should be under way. Lightning awareness should begin
with the first flash of lightning seen or thunder clap heard.

Evacuation Pr ocedures

The students should be evacuated to a safe shel ter. Staying away fr om tall or

individual trees, lone objects (light or flag poles), metal objects, and open fields.

Examples of safe shelter are a bus, dressing room, or other building. A dug out o r

awning are not considered safe shelter. Administrators should evacuate

spectators from the stadium.

Resume Practice and Competition

Once a game or practice has been suspended the storm should continue to be

monitored. No contest or practice should be resumed until: