

# TOWN OF SOUTHBOROUGH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

**John D. Mauro, Jr. & Neal P. Aspesi**

21 Main Street, Southborough, MA

508-485-3235 – [naspesi@southboroughma.com](mailto:naspesi@southboroughma.com)

[www.southboroughfire.org](http://www.southboroughfire.org) (Link Emerg. Management)

# Objectives

- Awareness of common weather hazards encountered during the use of Town fields
- Understanding the facts of weather dangers
- Basic weather safety knowledge
- Understanding of your responsibility as a coach and/or user of a Town Field.

# National Weather Service Terminology

- **Outlook** – A preliminary alert concerning a potential upcoming hazardous weather threat
  - Issued **hours (usually 12+)** or **days in advance**
- **Watch** – An alert describing the “near-term” potential for hazardous weather
  - Issued **6 hours (severe thunderstorm/tornado)** to **2 days (winter storm/hurricane)** in advance

# National Weather Service Terminology

- **Warning** – Hazardous and/or potentially life-threatening weather is expected. Take necessary protective actions!
  - Issued **minutes (severe thunderstorm/tornado)** to **12-24 hours (winter storm/hurricane)** in advance
- **Advisory** – Hazardous weather is imminent, but will be more of an inconvenience. Take any necessary action.
  - Issued **hours in advance** – **Common for Heat**

# WEATHER HAZARDS

## \*\*\*\*\* LIGHTNING \*\*\*\*\*



Emergency managers should be Proactive, not Reactive !



This appeared on film 1/30<sup>th</sup> of  
a second before the next  
image...





200 yards away

# Lightning Facts

- Lightning strikes 30 miles away from storm clouds have been recorded
- Most common weather hazard in New England
- Average of 62 people killed & 400 Children Injured each year
- Lightning injuries can lead to permanent disabilities or death. On average, 20% of strike victims die; 70% of survivors suffer serious long term effects

# Fatalities by Age and Gender

## 2006 LIGHTNING FATALITIES BY AGE AND GENDER

	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>UNKNOWN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
0 TO 9	0	1	0	1	2
10 TO 19	3	10	0	13	28
20 TO 29	1	3	0	4	9
30 TO 39	0	5	0	5	11
40 TO 49	2	8	0	10	21
50 TO 59	2	3	0	5	11
60 TO 69	1	2	0	3	6
70 TO 79	0	1	0	1	2
80 TO 89	0	3	0	3	6
90 TO --	0	0	0	0	0
UNKNOWN	0	1	1	2	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	9	37	1	47	100
<b>PERCENT</b>	19	79	2	100	

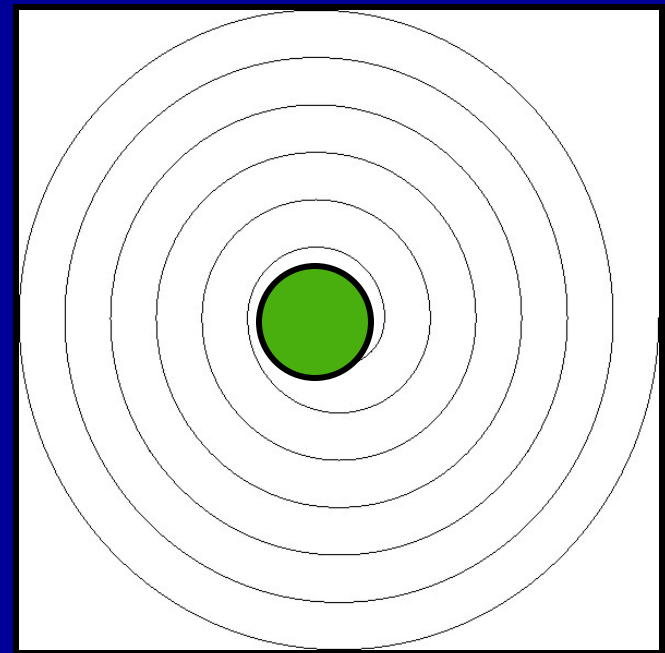
# In One Second

**Sound** goes 1000 feet



Unknown internet source, modified

**Light** goes around the earth 7 times—  
186,000 miles



# Lightning Safety Rules



# **\*30-30 RULE\***

**30 Seconds—Seek Shelter**

**30 Minutes—Stay there**

**When thunderstorms are in the area,  
No Place Outside is Safe!**

**When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!  
Stay Indoors for 30 Minutes After the Last Rumble of Thunder**

# Lightning Safety Rules



**Go inside a large permanent building, like a house or school**  
Stay away from plumbing or electrical appliances.  
Don't use corded telephones, except in emergencies.



**A hard topped metal vehicle is the next safest place**  
Roll up windows and don't touch any metal.  
Convertibles are NOT safe!



**Stay away from elevated places and tall isolated objects**  
Like mountains, trees, flag poles, light poles and communication towers



**Stay away from bodies of water, including swimming pools**  
Seek shelter on land in a building.



# Lightning Safety Rules

## **Stay away from open fields**

Including Soccer, Baseball, Football fields and Tennis and Basketball courts - Basically all outdoor arenas

## **Stay away from open structures**

Including dugouts, bleachers (metal or wood) gazebos and picnic shelters

## **Stay away from metal fences and underground utilities/irrigation systems**

Electricity can travel long ways through these conductors

**Safe**



**Roll up windows and don't touch any metal parts of the car.**

**Safe**



**Roll up windows and don't touch any metal parts of the car.**

Safe



**Not Safe**



**This Provides LITTLE Protection**



**CELL PHONES ARE SAFE.....CALL 9-1-1**

# Lightning Info Websites

- [www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/outdoors](http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/outdoors)
- [www.westmetrosoccer.net/lightning](http://www.westmetrosoccer.net/lightning)
- [www.Struckbylightning.org](http://www.Struckbylightning.org)

# Extreme Temperatures:

## – Heat Advisory

- A Heat Advisory will be issued when the Heat Index is expected to reach 105 with a nighttime low not below 80.

## – Heat Warning

- Excessive Heat Warnings will be issued with a maximum heat index  $\geq 115$  with minimum 80.

### ***Note:***

**Children tend to compensate longer but deteriorate very rapidly!**

# *Your Responsibility*

- Think Safety First!
- Do not delay to act!
- Severe weather is dangerous!

# *Your Responsibility*

- Know the Weather Forecast
  - **Caution:** Forecasts can change rapidly
- Be cautious of you surroundings
- Have an **Escape Plan** and **Designated Shelter**
- **Don't be pressured** by parents and other coaches –  
“you are the responsible party”

*Town cannot logistically ensure notification especially rapidly approaching storms.*

# WEB INFORMATION

➤ [WEATHER.GOV/BOSTON](https://www.weather.gov/boston)

➤ [WBZTV.COM](https://www.wbztv.com)

➤ [SOUTHBOROUGHFIRE.ORG](https://www.southboroughfire.org)

(link: **Emerg. Management**)