

Lightning Protocol

Lakeville Park Commission

The Lakeville Park Commission has developed the following protocol in case of lightning strikes or lightning in the area. The protocol will be posted on both, our town page and our Facebook page. It will be distributed to any organization that uses our parks and disbursed through them to their team members. We will also be adding QR codes to all of our parks that will have information on lightning safety. We will be adding a lightning safety element to our AED and basic first aid training sessions that will be available for those who use our parks.

The commission chair along with a representative from each league and the manager of Loon Pond Lodge will be designated weather watchers. If there is a special event, a weather watcher will be appointed for that event. The weather watchers will be required to have an alert on their phone signaling when lightning is in the area. They will also follow the 30/30 rule. (If thunder comes within 30 seconds of lightning, safe shelter must be taken for 30 minutes from the last lightning spotted.)

We have very different parks with very different uses throughout Lakeville, that will have very different lightning protocols.

Dickran Diran Square and **Shaw Park** do not have any safe structures. If there is lightning in the area or a lightning strike, the course of action is evacuation. There will be a sign with a QR code at the park entrances that will give this information.

John Paun Park does not have a safe structure to go to into in case of lightning. The course of action for this park is to wait in lightning safe vehicles or evacuation. This would depend on the length of the lightning threat. We have the added security of having umpires at this field during games. They are trained on when to postpone or cancel games and have everyone seek safe shelter. In the case of an emergency, if someone cannot seek a safe shelter, the snack bar may be used.

Clear Pond Park has several safe structures that that may be used during lightning storms. However, the preferred protocol would be to shelter in the cars or evacuate, depending on the length and speed of the storm.

Ted Williams Camp is a unique space because it is used for different types of events. A sign with a QR code with lightning safety will be at each trail entrance and throughout the park. Those walking or on the pond will need to be aware of their safe place which would be their vehicles or the bathrooms. There are two safe structures at this park. If the lightning storm happens during a Loon Pond Lodge event, the attendees will wait inside the lodge until it is safe to exit. If the storm happens during a sporting event the attendees will be asked to shelter in their safe vehicles or in an emergency in the bathrooms.

<https://www.weather.gov/safety/lightning-sports>

<http://www.businessinsider.com/stand-under-tree-second-worst-thing-do-in-lightning-storm-2017-7>