

Northern Kentucky University	Policy Link: Occupational Safety Policy
Issue Date: 11/02/2018	Title: LIGHTNING PROCEDURE
Revised Date:	

OBJECTIVE AND PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to prepare campus occupants of lightning risks and to minimize lightning hazards for faculty, staff, students, and visitors of Northern Kentucky University. This procedure is administered under the authority of University Occupational Safety Policy.

DEFINITIONS

Safe Location - any substantial, frequently inhabited building. The building should have four solid walls (not a dugout), electrical, plumbing, and telephone wiring, all of which aid in grounding a structure (press boxes and maintenance sheds are NOT safe shelter areas). It is not safe to shower, bathe or talk on landline phones while inside of a safe shelter during thunderstorms (cell phones are ok). The alternative choice for a safe location is a fully enclosed vehicle with a metal roof with the windows completely closed. It is important to NOT TOUCH any part of the metal framework while inside the vehicle during ongoing thunderstorms.

RULES AND PROCEDURES

Preparedness and a quick response are the best defenses to minimize the lightning hazard. Lightning detectors may be used to determine lightning location. If a hand-held lightning detector is not available Northern Kentucky University personnel will utilize the flash-to-bang method to determine the proximity of lightning. To use this method, count the seconds from the time lightning is sighted to when the clap of thunder is heard. Divide the number of seconds by five (5) to obtain (in miles) the approximate distance the lightning is occurring.

In accordance with NKU guidelines it is recommended that by the time the flash-to-bang count gets to 30 SECONDS, all individuals should have been relocated to the nearest safe location of their own choosing.

Lightning Strikes within 8-10 Miles

The following actions will take place.

- All outside activities will halt
- Faculty, staff, students, and visitors of Northern Kentucky University will seek shelter in a safe location.

Areas to Avoid

Shaded areas (tents, picnic areas, etc.); single tall trees; light or flag poles; water; metal bleachers; open fields, dugouts, fence, machinery

Lightning Safe Position

Crouch on the ground, weight on the balls of the feet, feet together, head lowered, and ears covered. Do not lie flat on the ground. You should also avoid proximity to other people (allow 15 feet).

RESPONSIBILITIES

Safety and Emergency Management

Safety and Emergency Management is responsible for procedure development, review, and compliance with all applicable federal and state regulations. Safety and Emergency Management will coordinate

training as needed. Safety and Emergency Management staff are authorized to halt any unsafe work practice that is not in accordance with this or any other NKU safety policy or procedure.

Chair/Director Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the chair/director to comply with applicable environmental, health and safety laws and regulations, University policies and procedures, and accepted safe work practices.

Chairs/directors shall ensure that their employees receive required training prior to beginning work and annual/refresher training as needed. The chair/director is also responsible for maintaining their employee training records.

Chairs and Directors may delegate the details of program implementation to appropriate personnel within their authority. The ultimate responsibility, however, for ensuring implementation of these programs at the academic department/administrative unit level remains with the chairs/directors.

TRAINING

Departments shall ensure adequate training for each employee in relation to this procedure.

Documentation shall be maintained for each employee. For additional assistance contact Safety and Emergency Management.

For additional information, forms, training, and other resources visit nku.edu/safety.