

# **Inclement Weather Policy - Aquatics**

## **Phase 1 – Storm clouds in the area, possibility of inclement weather**

**Admissions:** Alert all patrons entering the park that inclement weather is likely and reinforce our Rain-Check policy

**Operations:** Blue and White slide dispatch and manager on duty should be on the lookout for lightning in the area. Natatorium manager should monitor the weather radar in office and update staff at all aquatic locations periodically on the storm movement.

## **Phase 2 – Lightning/Thunder in the area**

*Based on data from the lightning prediction and warning system, visual confirmation of lightning and/or audible confirmation of thunder by staff, and/or via local weather radar station*

**Admissions:** Close the gates to paying customers, those with wristbands may re-enter. Inform guests that there is inclement weather in the area and we will re-open the gates as soon as the weather passes over.

**Operations:** Close outdoor slides (not the kiddie pool slides) and evacuate tower. Inform guests that there is inclement weather in the area and that we will re-open slides as soon as the weather passes over. Alert all guards that we may be closing the pools.

## **Phase 3 – Lightning/Thunder detected in the immediate area**

*The lightning prediction and warning system sends an audible siren signaling lightning / thunder in the coverage area.*

**Admissions:** Close the gates to paying customers, those with wristbands may re-enter. Inform guests that there is inclement weather in the area and we will re-open the gates as soon as the weather passes over.

**Operations:** Close all pools. Guests may stay in the facilities, but cannot enter the water. The Manager on Duty (MOD) and Pool Managers should continue to monitor weather radar and report on the supposed duration, location, and intensity of the storm. Pool Manager should give the signal (3 short whistles followed by a long whistle) to clear the pools and inform park patrons over the public address system with regards to remaining in the park or relocating to the Nat if required.

The Civic Center Pool (CCP) Manager should clear the pool and encourage guests to take shelter.

Absent an audible alert from the lightning prediction and warning system, the MOD may also close the pools under weather conditions with visible lightning and audible thunder based on local weather forecasting and / or information obtained from the Emergency Management Coordinator. Prior to closing, the

Perry Weather is the lightning prediction system used by the City of Denton. For more information, please visit: <https://perryweather.com/>

MOD will confirm electrical activity in the immediate area through local radar, weather reporting, and local streaming data.

Once the hazard has subsided, an “all clear” signal of three horn blasts will sound. Staff will review radars to confirm there is no additional inclement weather moving into the area and notify staff that it is safe to reopen the facility. At this point, staff will move to Phase 5.

#### **Phase 4 – Close the park.**

If the lightning prediction and detection system continues to detect lightning in the immediate area for more than an hour, staff may continue to close the park temporarily, or for the remainder of the day. This decision is made by the Aquatics Program Area Manager or the MOD in consultation with the Director or designee. The decision is made based on radar observations, information from the lightning prediction and detection system, air and water temperature, and the local weather forecast for the remainder of the day. The MOD will update staff every 15-30 minutes with regards to closing the park temporarily or for the remainder of the day. If staff close the park for the remainder of the day, rain checks will be issued to any patron who has been in the park for less than two hours.

**Admissions:** Close the gates. Patrons with a wristband may leave the park and return later the same day if the park reopens. They may also move to the Nat. If the park closes for the day, staff will issue rainchecks for patrons who have been in the park for less than two hours.

**Operations:** Water Works Park and Natatorium staff will immediately go into “Inclement Weather Rotation” procedures inside of the Nat. Staff will help to ensure that all guests exit the park safely. Guests with belongings in lockers or elsewhere in the park may be escorted by staff to those locations when weather becomes safe. Staff will begin cleaning duties.

#### **Phase 5 – Reopening the park**

*The lightning system sounds an “all clear” of three horn blasts to indicate the immediate area is clear of electrical activity. . Staff will review radars to confirm there is no additional inclement weather moving into the area and notify staff that it is safe to reopen the facility*

**Admissions:** Begin selling admission passes and scanning ID cards for guests to be admitted into the facility. Admission Leads will record times of closure/reopening and add it to the end of day report.

**Operations:** The lightning system will give an audible sound of three horn blasts to indicate the immediate area is clear of electrical activity. MOD will radio staff with intent to reopen. Staff will ensure that the park is clean, free of debris in all public areas, all safety equipment is checked, and that pool chemistry is within health code ranges prior to reopening. MOD, Pool Managers, and Admission

Leads must all signal over the radio that their areas are prepared to reopen before any guests can re-enter the park.