



# Play It Safe!



**Monitor threatening weather.** Be aware of thunderstorm “watches” and “warnings” and look for darkening skies, flashes of lightning or increasing wind, which may be signs of a developing or approaching thunderstorm.

**When thunder roars, go indoors.** If you hear thunder, see lightning, or observe dark threatening clouds developing overhead, suspend your activity immediately and instruct everyone to get to a safe building or vehicle. Stay inside until 30 minutes after you last hear the last clap of thunder. Do not shelter under trees.

**Get to a safer structure.** Substantial buildings provide the best protection. Once inside, stay off corded phones and away from any wiring or plumbing. Avoid sheds, small or open shelters, dugouts, bleachers, or grandstands. If a sturdy building is not nearby, a hard-topped metal vehicle with the windows closed will offer good protection. Lightning has struck people while they have been boating, standing under a tree, swimming, riding a lawn mower, playing soccer, golfing, fishing, bike riding, and more.

**Postpone activities.** Check the latest forecast prior to a practice or event. If thunderstorms are forecasted, consider postponing activities early to avoid being caught in a dangerous situation. Lightning causes fatalities and injuries most often during the summer months, when people are outside.

**Consider an app for your mobile device.** Apps for mobile devices are now available that provide access to a local network of lightning sensors. This may be an additional resource for you to assess surrounding weather conditions and practice personal safety.

