



Ankeny Little League Severe Weather Policy

Evacuation of the Ankeny Little League Baseball Complex due to severe weather may be initiated by either the city of Ankeny or Ankeny Little League.

TORNADO

Evacuation of the Prairie Ridge Sports Baseball Complex due to tornado or other severe weather may be initiated by either the city of Ankeny or Ankeny Little League.

Ankeny Little League maintains a NOAA Weather Radio in the Quad Center. The radio will be turned on whenever there are games being played. Officers of the Day (OD) will monitor the radio for threatening weather. In addition, when threatening weather enters western and central Iowa, the Weather Sentry system maintained by the City of Ankeny, shall be turned on and monitored by the city staff. When city officials determine the threat of severe weather is high enough to warrant the evacuation of the Prairie Ridge Sports Complex, they will call Ankeny Little League at the Quad Center mobile phone.

Also, whenever an alert on the radio indicates a Tornado Warning is in effect for Polk, Boone or Dallas counties, and the affectivity of the alert is during scheduled games or when the complex is otherwise in use, Officers of the Day shall initiate the *following evacuation plan* of the baseball complex:

An Officer of the Day using the air-blast horn that is stored in the Quad Center shall communicate evacuation to the complex occupants. The following procedure shall be used with the horn for communication of the need to evacuate the baseball complex:

- Stand on the Quad Center patio facing the east (parking lot).
- Point the horn at a 45 degree angle toward the sky. Use extreme care to ensure that there are no persons within 10 feet in the front of the horn. Hearing damage may result from being in line of the horn blast.
- Sound THREE (3) LONG horn blasts for 5 seconds each.

When the evacuation order has been given, the following is required of the complex occupants:

- Officers of the Day along with League officials - Direct traffic out of the parking area as needed to ensure a safe and orderly evacuation. Ensure all players/children are placed with a parent or adult guardian for evacuation. If the baseball complex parking lot is more than approximately half full, contact the Ankeny Police Department @ 911 to request assistance directing traffic onto 18th St. Tell the dispatcher that you need assistance with a weather evacuation at the Baseball Complex within Prairie Ridge.
- Managers/Coaches/Team Parents - Ensure that all players are placed in the custody of a parent or adult guardian before leaving your team. If a parent or adult guardian cannot be located in a timely manner, take the player(s) with you

and evacuate the complex. Contact the player's parent or guardian as quickly as possible to notify them of the situation and the status of their player.

- Drivers - Proceed in a safe and orderly manner out of the parking lot. Follow traffic flow signs and signals by those persons directing traffic. Use both lanes for exiting. There shall be no vehicle entrance into the parking lot while there is an emergency evacuation order in place.
- DO NOT remain on the fields, in the dugouts, on the sidewalks or around the concession stand and Quad Center.

Games will be cancelled and rescheduled at a later time.

LIGHTNING

Lightning is the most common severe weather threat to baseball complex occupants. For this reason, Ankeny Little League has a comprehensive plan for evaluating and reacting to this weather threat.

In addition to the NOAA Weather Radio located in the Quad Center, Ankeny Little League maintains a portable lightning detector in the Quad Center. The Officer of the Day shall possess and monitor the detector whenever there is a severe weather threat. The detector shall not be used while operating a golf cart as the electrical system (spark plug wires) may interfere with the performance of the detector. Proper operation of the detector is given below. A severe weather threat maybe indicated by the weather alert radio or as observed in the sky by visual lightning or thunder. When lightning is indicated at less than 8 miles on the lightning detector or lightning is visually observed or thunder is heard, league officials shall initiate the *following seek shelter plan* of the baseball complex:

An Officer of the Day using the air-blast horn that is stored in the Quad Center shall communicate the need for baseball complex occupants to seek shelter. The following procedure shall be used with the horn for communication of the need to seek shelter at the baseball complex:

- Stand on the Quad Center patio facing the east (parking lot).
- Point the horn at a 45 degree angle toward the sky. Use extreme care to ensure that there are no persons within 10 feet in the front of the horn. Hearing damage may result from being in line of the horn blast.
- Sound ONE (1) LONG horn blasts for 10 seconds.
- In addition, the Officer of the Day shall communicate the need for baseball complex occupants to seek shelter by verbally expressing the requirement to Umpires and Managers at each playing field. It is imperative that all fields are notified immediately. Officials should use other adults to network as needed to communicate the shelter requirement in the most expedient manner.

During this seek shelter lightning threat, baseball complex occupants must avoid close proximity to backstops, fences, dugouts, trees and open areas. It is imperative that all persons seek shelter in their vehicles. At the Prairie Ridge Sports Baseball Complex, the ONLY appropriate shelter for lightning is:

- An automobile with a solid metal roof. Once inside the automobile, roll up windows and move to the center of the interior. Soft-tops and convertibles should be avoided as they do not provide adequate protection.

When the seek shelter order has been given, the following is required of the complex occupants:

- Officers of the Day - Direct all complex occupants toward appropriate shelter. Ensure all players/children are placed with a parent or adult guardian. Monitor the weather using the weather radio, lightning detector and the cell phone. Further direct the occupants as needed to either return to the fields or evacuate the baseball complex.
- Managers/Coaches/Team Parents - Ensure that all players are placed in the custody of a parent or adult guardian before leaving your team. If a parent or adult guardian cannot be located in a timely manner, take the player(s) with you and seek appropriate shelter. Contact the player's parent or guardian as quickly as possible to notify them of the situation and the status of their player.

The all clear signal will not be given until there has been no indication of lightning in the area for a minimum of 20 minutes. The same criteria used to issue the order for shelter shall be used to maintain the order; no lightning within an 8 mile radius.

Any lightning shelter orders given after 7:30 PM will also indicate the cancellation or postponement of the day's events.

During practice or other events when no league officials are present, managers and coaches shall order their players to seek shelter whenever lightning is observed or thunder is heard. All persons shall maintain shelter for a minimum of 20 minutes after the last indication of lightning.

All persons at the complex shall remain in their vehicles until the all clear signal is given. All clear signal will be communicated by league officials in the following three (3) ways:

- Sound ONE (1) LONG horn blasts for 10 seconds.
- Lowering the Ankeny Little League flag to half-mast.
- Communication to the vehicles in the parking lot.