

Lightning Detection System Procedures

A “Lightning Detection System” is installed next to the playground at the Martin Recreation Complex. The system uses a highly sophisticated sensor and computer to predict the probability of a lightning strike within a predetermined area. It also projects the potential for deadly “bolts out of the blue” which are strikes that seem to come from nowhere and cause a high percentage of lightning fatalities.

When the system determines conditions are favorable for lightning, it goes to “Red Alert” activating a flashing light above the tower and cluster of horns, which sound for 15 seconds and can be heard throughout the park. At that point, an “Activity Detector” (timer) takes over to determine how much time will elapse before normal activities may resume. The minimum running time will be 10 minutes. However, the number will be reset each time a major excursion of energy (i.e. lightning strike) is recorded. Once conditions return to normal, and the Activity Detector counts down to zero, an “All Clear” will sound. This will consist of three short blasts of the horns, five seconds apart, and the light will go off.

During the Red Alert, all park visitors are advised to seek shelter in their vehicles until the “all clear” sounds. This will be mandatory for all organized activity supervised by the City of Martin Parks and Recreation Department. If the system goes to Red Alert during a time of question by anyone, it is the department’s policy to error on the side of safety.