

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

SECTION:	100 – GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	CODE:	AP 169.16
PROCEDURE:	SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS		

BACKGROUND

Severe Thunderstorms may include heavy rain, damaging wind, and hail. Severe thunderstorms have winds of 100 km/h or higher.

Severe Thunderstorm Watch: When conditions are favorable for severe thunderstorms to develop in your area, a severe thunderstorm watch is issued.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning: When severe thunderstorms are occurring in your area, a severe thunder warning is issued.

PROCEDURES

1. Staff Response

1.1 Indoors

- 1.1.1 Ensure all students are indoors.
- 1.1.2 Close all windows and doors.
- 1.1.3 Move students to the inside hallways. Choose an area with no windows, if possible.
- 1.1.4 Stay away from open doors and windows, metal objects, and plumbing until the storm has passed.
- 1.1.5 Watch for fires and report immediately.
- 1.1.6 Don't handle electrical equipment or telephones.
- 1.1.7 Television sets, computers, and other electrical equipment and appliances should be unplugged to the extent possible.
- 1.1.8 Remain in safe area until warning expires or emergency personnel have issued an all-clear signal.

1.2 Outdoors

- 1.2.1 If outside and lightning is seen or thunder heard, move inside at once. Do not seek shelter under isolated trees or close to wire fences, playground equipment, or shelters located in exposed locations.
- 1.2.2 If caught outside during a thunderstorm, keep away from isolated trees and other electrically conductive elevated objects such as overhead wires. Avoid open spaces, wire fences, sheds, or shelters not fully enclosed. Seek shelter in thick timber or a ravine. Get into a crouching position.
- 1.2.3 Seek shelter in low-lying areas, ditches, & depressions.
- 1.2.4 If caught on a level field, and you feel your hair stand on end, kneel or crouch with feet together, place hands on knees and bend forward. Do not lie flat.
- 1.2.5 If with a group, spread out.
- 1.2.6 If in a vehicle, stay inside. Vehicles offer excellent lightning protection. Do not touch exposed metal parts. Do not park vehicle under electrical lines or isolated trees.

2. Administrators and/or Response Team

- 2.1 The Principal/designate is to initiate the school warning system.
- 2.2 The Principal/designate is to designate a staff member to listen to the radio for information and relay instructions.
- 2.3 During a Severe Thunderstorm Watch or Warning for your area, cancel outside recess and physical education classes. Even if there is no wind or raining, lightening is always a threat. Stay indoors and do not venture outside unless absolutely necessary.

Date Issued: November 21, 2007
Date Revised: May 31, 2016