

The following shall be the Lightning Protection Policy of the Borough of Cresskill:

Lightning Detection Policy.

Functions of Lightning Detection System

This is an automatic system that enables itself upon weather threats in the area.
It is not controlled by a person.

1. When lightning approaches a ten mile radius from Cresskill, the Lightning Detection System will activate a flashing light and an alarm will sound for approximately fifteen seconds.
2. **As soon as the Lightning Warning System enables, everyone MUST remove themselves from their outdoor activity and seek shelter or face severe penalties and fines.**
3. The flashing light will then continue for thirty minutes after the last lightning strike within a ten mile radius; all fields must remain cleared through the duration of the activated warning system.
4. When the warning alarm sounds three five- second intermittent blasts and the flashing light goes out it is permissible to reenter the field.
5. **Under absolutely no circumstances is anyone allowed back on the field prior to the Lightning Warning System disabling itself.**
6. This system may reactivate at any time throughout the duration that the fields are open depending on the storm activity and its whereabouts. **There are no false alarms.**
7. **Members of the Public using the parks and fields on an individual, unorganized basis are also subject to the same policy.**
8. **All protective measures must be adhered to at all times.**

Recommendation: If you hear thunder as a storm approaches and the alarm system has not yet activated, it is recommended that you use this leeway time to organize your group to safety. Lightning has been known to strike up to ten miles away.

Recommendation: For places of safety during a thunderstorm, a vehicle with a solid metal roof and metal sides offers some protection. Close the windows, lean away from the sides of the car, and keep your hands in your lap. Do not touch the steering wheel, ignition, gear shifter or radio.

Third Street recreational fields can seek shelter in the Cresskill Community Center during normal hours of operation.

Third Street Basketball Courts need to report back to the Cresskill Community Center for shelter.

Five Levels of Lightning Safety:

1 - **Plan ahead:** coaches should watch the weather forecast prior to using the field.

2 - **Use the ‘30-30 Rule’:** after you see lightning, count the seconds until you hear thunder. If this time 30 seconds or less, go inside. Stay inside until 30 minutes after the last strike of thunder.

3 - **Avoid Dangerous Locations:** DO NOT go under trees to keep dry in a thunderstorm!

Avoid: elevated places, open areas, tall isolated objects, water activities, dugouts, open areas such as fields, open vehicles, unprotected open buildings, and large structures such as fences or bleachers.

4 - **Lightning Crouch (desperate last resort):** If the lightning is about to strike near you, it will sometimes give a warning of a few seconds or less. Sometimes your hair will stand upright, your skin will tingle, light metal objects will vibrate, or you will hear a crackling static-like “kee-kee” sound. If this happens and you’re in a group, spread out so there are several body lengths between each person. If one person is struck, the others may not be hit, and give first aid. Once you’ve spread out, use the lightning crouch: put your feet together, squat down, tuck your head and cover your ears. When the immediate threat of lightning has passed, continue heading to the safest spot possible. Remember this is a last resort; you are much safer having followed the previous steps and not gotten into this high-risk situation.

5 - **First Aid:** Lightning deaths are caused by cardiac arrest or the person has stopped breathing from the cardiac arrest. Start CPR or rescue breathing if the person has no pulse or is not breathing, respectively. Have someone call 911. Use an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) if one is available.