



LIGHTNING SAFETY

MYTH: If it's not raining or there aren't clouds overhead, you're safe from lightning.

FACT: Lightning often strikes more than three miles from the center of the thunderstorm, far from the rain or the thunderstorm cloud. "Bolts from the blue" can strike 10-15 miles from the thunderstorm.

What You Need to Know:

- If lightning is detected within a 10-mile radius, a school will activate a Shelter in Place due to Weather
- A return to normal activity can only be made once the weather system has clearly passed from the area, typically no lightning strikes within 10 miles have occurred within thirty minutes.
- Visitors to school campuses may be sheltered in a school cafeteria or gym- they will not be made to wait outside
- Upon the occurrence of lightning at dismissal time, students who drive may be released based on the principal's discretion. All bus riders and walkers will be sheltered until the area is deemed safe.
- If you need to pick up your child while a school is sheltering in place due to weather, you may do so at your own risk. Las Cruces Public Schools assumes no responsibility for your child at that point. Please expect delays as it takes time to call each child out of class individually or in small groups.

MYTH: If thunderstorms threaten while you are outside playing a game, it is okay to finish before seeking shelter.

FACT: Many lightning casualties occur because people do not seek shelter soon enough. No game is worth death or life-long injuries. Seek proper shelter immediately if you hear thunder. Adults are responsible for the safety of children.

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| • All organizations using LCPS facilities will comply with LCPS Lightning Safety Protocols. | • Lightning is a very unpredictable event and is quite capable of striking anywhere at any time throughout an active cell. Failure to follow these protocols could result in catastrophic consequences. |
| • Las Cruces Public Schools designed a Lightning Safety Protocol following an incident where a student was struck by lightning on a sports field at one of our schools. | • LCPS will continue to analyze our Lightning Safety Protocols to ensure a safe and efficient process. |

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[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/SAFETY/LIGHTNING-MYTHS](https://www.weather.gov/safety/lightning-myths)