

Lightning Evacuation Plan & Safety Procedures

Introduction:

In Australia, lightning accounts for five to ten deaths and well over one hundred injuries annually. A large percentage of lightning strike victims survive but many of these suffer from severe life-long injury and disability. Statistics show that approximately 25% of people killed by lightning are playing sport.

The purpose of this plan is to outline responsibilities and safety procedures to follow should you be threatened by lightning on the Tenterfield Golf Club Course.

Responsibilities:

- You must take responsibility for your personal safety and should take appropriate action when threatened by lightning.
- You must take responsibility for children in your care during thunderstorm activity.
- All players have the right to discontinue play if they believe there is danger from lightning.

Thunderstorm Identification and Monitoring:

- The Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) website will be used to determine the daily weather forecast for all official Club Competition days held on the Tenterfield Golf Club Course.
- On official Club Competition days when a possible thunderstorm or thunderstorm is forecast, staff and/or Committee members will monitor the weather using updated forecasts, severe weather alerts and the rain radar tab on the BoM website.
- On other days it is the responsibility of the player to take the appropriate action.

Approaching Thunderstorm:

- You must stay alert to changes in sky conditions portending thunderstorm development.
- Once thunder can be heard, you can keep estimating the distance to the lightning activity by using the Flash-to-Bang reckoning method. The rule of thumb is that every 3 seconds of delay between a flash to thunder, equates to a distance of 1 kilometre.
- Seek a safe location whenever the Flash-to-Bang interval is less than 30 seconds or 10 km distance to the lightning activity.
- The Club's Suspension of Play Procedure will be implemented (during official Club Competition days) as soon as possible when the Flash-to-Bang interval is 30 seconds or less.

Safe Locations to shelter:

- Inside the Club house, keeping away from windows and any appliances connected to outside electrical conductors.
- Inside a metal-skinned car or other vehicle.

Unsafe Locations to shelter:

- Standing beneath isolated trees or touching or standing near any tree.
- Motorised golf buggies.
- Small, unprotected buildings.
- High ground, open ground.
- Umbrellas should not be used.

What to do if the safest action is not possible:

If the thunderstorm is above you and you are not able to take safe refuge, then you can minimise the risk of being struck or affected by the indirect effects of lightning by:

- Seek a depressed area, avoid high places.
- Keep away from large, isolated trees.
- Assume a crouched position with your feet together.
- If in a group, keep at least 3 metres apart.

First Aid Treatment:

- There is no danger in touching a person who has been struck by lightning.
- Send for help or call 000 on your mobile, at the earliest opportunity.
- First Aid is required urgently and should be started without delay.

Reference: NSW Sport and Recreation Outdoor Activities

Management
Tenterfield Golf Club Ltd

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