

Thor Guard Lightning Warning System

A Thor Guard Lightning Warning System is installed at Hawkins Spring Park, Midlothian Sports Park, and Jaycee Park. The Thor Guard System Base Station Sensor and Transmitter are located on top of the concession buildings. The sensor continuously monitors the atmosphere's electrostatic energy as far away as 15 miles and evaluates the potential for lightning within an area of approximately 2 miles in radius. When the conditions increase to a point where lightning may occur, the Thor Guard horns sound a single 15 second long blast and the strobe light on the Thor Guard Warning System begins flashing. If you hear the horns or see the strobe light seek appropriate shelter for the duration of the alert. All outdoor activities must cease during the alert period to protect the visitors and users of these parks. Appropriate shelters include buildings, automobiles/trucks, and when one of those is not available seek a low-lying area. However, if the conditions appear unsafe and an alert alarm has not sounded, common sense should be your guide and activities should still cease despite the absence of a Thor Guard warning.

When the Thor Guard sensor detects that the danger has passed (a minimum of 10 minutes after the original alarm) it will send the all-clear signal. The strobe light will stop flashing and three separate 5 second long blasts will sound. After the all-clear signal is sounded it is safe, according to the Thor Guard system, to resume outdoor activities. Again common sense should still govern, and if the conditions do not appear to be safe to resume outside activity it is best to wait until the weather circumstances change regardless of an all clear from Thor Guard.

Due to the unpredictability of weather patterns it may be possible for the alert to sound multiple times within an hour or even sound when there are clear skies and no danger. While stopping and restarting athletic activities due to Thor Guard warnings may result in some frustration, and even anger, it is important to remember that the Thor Guard system's warnings should be heeded at all times. The potential risk to people is too great to ignore and the consequences of an accident are too severe. Many of the lightning deaths and injuries that occur each year are from the first lightning strike from an incoming storm or from the rear of a storm that appears to have passed through the area. The chance of these types of tragedies can be minimized by using the Thor Guard system, which relies on monitoring the atmospheric conditions not visible to the human eye.

The concession building has Thor Guard informational signs near the entrance to the restrooms.